WOLVERHAMPTON
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TIME•CAPSULE: Pupils bury message for the future with help of pub – page 5

Job-loss warning to city's CAB staff

A BRANCH of the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Black Country has issued risk of redundancy notices to two thirds of staff following a year that saw record numbers asking for help.

A 30-day consultation scheme on possible job losses in Wolverhampton has been launched as the service prepares for a 35 per cent cut in government-funded projects from April.

Trustees have issued warnings to 38 of the CAB's 57 employees in the city, but at this stage a maximum of 19 full-time jobs are said to be at risk.

Chief operating officer Jeremy Vanes warned that the bureau is facing "big and regrettable changes".

He said: "As we stand today, all CAB services remain open and running normally and will do so into February. None of our existing clients need worry about services being stopped and we will continue receiving new clients after Christmas until we are certain that the predicted funding reductions are unavoidable.

Remedies

"The CAB trustees have, throughout 2010, made it clear that the funding picture for 2011 looked challenging on a scale never seen before. Several major government schemes that have greatly benefited the city since 2008 were always time-limited.

"There are likely to be fewer opportunities for CAB to run debt cases for clients in future and the CAB will probably have to concentrate more on assessing the advice needs of clients and encouraging them to pursue their own remedies with our guidance rather than us completely handling their case.

"It seems almost unreal that at a peak of demand for our services, we are obliged to prepare for a drastic cut in capacity, but the CAB will do its very best".

A debt assessment service and a debt counselling service that has been running for five years are also at risk.

In 2009/10 the Wolverhampton CAB's workload increased by 57 per cent on the previous year as 25,900 inquiries were dealt with, up from 16,500.

Tarmac blow

TARMAC, the Black Country-based building products giant, is to axe 550 jobs, only two from its HQ in Ettingshall, Wolverhampton.

The firm plans to close its Precast Solutions and Flooring arm, with the loss of 217 jobs in Lincolnshire, 106 in Somerset and the rest in Derby, Nottinghamshire and Dolyhir in Powys. The company blames continuing uncertainty of demand.

FROM•THIS . . . Empty shops in Cleveland Street and Worcester Street

TO THIS . . . An artist's impression of the Summer Row plan for Wolverhampton

DECISION IS•DUE ON SUMMER•ROW

by Tim Spiers

wolchron@expresssandstar.co.uk

THE FATE of Wolverhampton's Summer Row shopping complex could be decided once and for all next week.

Wolverhampton City Council is due to hold a cabinet meeting on Wednesday (Jan 5) where a decision will be made on whether to press ahead with Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) on 200 businesses.

The incoming Labour administration has made it clear they intend to press ahead with forging a deal with current developers of the project, Multi, if funding can be secured.

On the council's website Steve Boyes, director for regeneration and environment, sets out the local authority's present position.

He said: "A further report will be submitted to Cabinet on 5 January 2011 when a final decision on whether to implement the Compulsory Purchase Order will be made.

"Clearly the council has a number of major issues it must consider before a decision is taken.

"Although it would be the intention to serve notices before the end of January 2011, if the Council agrees to the Compulsory Purchase Order at its meeting on 5 January 2011, there would be no acquisition of property or requirement to vacate to premises for 18 months at the earliest once a final decision has been reached.

Options

One cabinet member, Councillor John Rowley, said it was vital that a deal was secured.

"Wolverhampton has been flagging behind its competitors of late and we could badly do with a boost. The recession isn't going to last forever and I think it's important that we can sort out a deal.

"We have three options; we could forget the whole thing, work with Multi on the project or work with a new developer.

"I think Multi are committed and we all need to stay that way.

"Wolverhampton hasn't been successful in developing secondary specialist shops in the city and I think there's a lot of scope for that; we have some but we need to offer more choice."

Tim Clark, spokesperson for Wolverhampton Council, said the council could borrow money to help fund the scheme.

"A decision will be taken as to whether the council will go ahead with Compulsory Purchase Orders at a cabinet meeting on January 5," he said.

"An agreement has been made in principle where the council could possibly buy into the scheme.

"They're looking to use prudential borrowing where the council would borrow money and use that to invest it in buying up the area covered by CPOs."

Cheeky Monkey pays the price of new drink laws

NIGHTCLUB promoters in Wolverhampton have blamed the smoking ban and changes to licensing laws for turning popular weekly disco Cheeky Monkey into a monthly event.

Apart from New Year's Eve, when Cheeky Monkey was due to be paired with its Saturday sister night Blast Off, the final weekly event was before Christmas.

Cheeky Monkey will now be held on the Friday closest to most people's payday at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall. The first Payday Cheeky Monkey is on February 4. Attendance fell from a peak of 3,000 in 2004 to an average 600.

Replace

The Civic Hall can make three times as much money by hosting a concert. Plans are under way to replace the nights that Cheeky Monkey is not on with nights themed around new age music and retro indie rock.

The indie night Blast Off will not be affected, and promoter Dave Travis said it was still going strong with an average of 1,200 a time.

Mark Blackstock, general manager of the Civic Halls, said: "Things started to change when the licensing laws allowed pubs to open later. A lot of people stopped coming into town after being in the pub. When the smoking ban came in, we also lost a lot of people. We've come to the view that we have to change."

Two years ago, Cheeky Monkey was moved into the smaller Wulfrun Hall but was returned to the Civic after bosses invested in new disco lights.

Vital that a deal is secured – councillor

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Review planned on day centre charges

CONTROVERSIAL day centre charges and hikes in the price of meals on wheels are to be reviewed, Wolverhampton's new social services chief has revealed.

The closure of the city's two tips twice a week, which was done to save £100,000, is also under scrutiny by the new Labour cabinet.

The cabinet is looking to undo changes made by the former Conservative administration.

Councillor Steve Evans, the new adult services boss, and environment chief Councillor John Reynolds, both confirmed they had asked bosses for a review. But they have said they cannot promise changes because the council would have to find at least £370,000 over the next 18 months if they went ahead.

Wolverhampton City Council is currently trying to find £70m of savings by 2015.

Labour recently seized control from the Tory-Lib Dem coalition in an historic motion of no confidence following two by-elections which gave the party one more seat than the controlling group.

During the coalition's time in power meals on wheels prices soared from £2.40 to £4.40 while day centre charges of up to £16-a-day were introduced as they tried to make savings.

The two tips at Shaw Road in Bushbury and Anchor Lane in Coseley were also shut twice a week.

Councillor Evans said: "Before we regained control I had gathered a petition of 1,600 names calling for a review of the charges. I no longer need to submit that because I am in a position to request that review from from the officers."

Grit running out as councils fight freeze

wolchron@expressandstar.co.uk

MORE than half of the winter grit supplies in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire have already been used as councils battle to keep roads open.

Several authorities have been forced to place emergency top-up orders after Artic conditions left roads in chaos.

Wolverhampton City Council has just 1,600 tons of grit left of a 3,400-ton stock in October.

Spokesman Tim Clark said: "We have had a prolonged period of freezing weather early in the season which has meant the gritters have been out a lot.

"We are in contact with salt suppliers as well as other councils and central government to secure deliveries to replenish stocks when it becomes necessary."

Dudley Council had ordered 6,500 tons but, following weeks of sub-zero tem- peratures, has just 3,200 left.

Spokeswoman Katherine Finney said the council would be "continuously monitoring" the situation to see whether further orders were needed.

In Staffordshire, almost two-thirds of its 30,000 tons has been used but extra supplies are due to be delivered over Christmas.

Walsall Council has used around half of its 4,000-ton stock. Cabinet member for transport Councillor Tom Ansell said: "We have no plans to bring in any more just yet but are continuing to monitor the situation."

Sandwell Council is best off, having used just over 2,800 tons of its initial supply of 6,300 tons. It also has an order in for a further 3,000 to be delivered over the coming weeks.

Worcestershire County Council had stockpiled 13,000 tons – its biggest ever order – but over the past six weeks has already used 7,500 tons.

Council spokeswoman Roslyn Golds said: "Orders have been placed to increase these stock levels over the coming weeks."

Help plea on revellers

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to go onto the streets of Wolverhampton to talk to revellers and clear bottles.

Wolverhampton Street Pastors are seeking new people to spare a few hours on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the year.

The group joins police and medics outside the bars and clubs. Church members patrol from around 10pm until the early hours. A 12-week training course begins on January 12. For details call 0845 203 4510 or email wolverhampton@streetpas tors.org.uk

Nearly 800 families opt out of the slop bucket scheme

NEARLY 800 people bombarded Wolverhampton City Council in just a few hours to insist they do not want slop buckets delivered to their homes.

Council bosses have agreed that they will not send out the two controversial new bins to any home if residents are adamant they do not want to recycle their food scraps. Council spokesman Tim Clark said that the authority received 775 calls from residents in just one day after the announcement was made last Wednesday. From January, families in Wolverhampton will be the first in the Black Country to be asked to recycle their kitchen scraps, which account for up to 25 per cent of domestic waste.

Promote

The waste will be recycled to provide electricity and fertilisers for local farms.

Large slop buckets will be rolled out to 98,000 homes to be kept outside for the binmen, while smaller ones will be sent out to be kept in the kitchen. Residents will also be given two rolls of biodegradable bin liners.

A £100,000 leafleting campaign has been launched to promote the scheme.

But the move has been met by resistance from many residents who object to having to sort their rubbish five ways.

To opt out of taking part in the new scheme and to not receive any of the new bins people should call Wolverhampton Council on 01902 551155.

Perfect script to gain cash

Central Youth Theatre members Malachi Campbell, Hanief Dixon, both 11, and Jacob Cohli, nine, celebrate the group being awarded almost £100,000

PROFESSIONAL playwrights have been commissioned to bring Wolverhampton's dancing history back to life in a series of pioneering productions after a city group was handed almost £100,000.

Central Youth Theatre, which is based at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Whitmore Reans, has been given £99,688 to stage four plays set in dancehalls through the decades from the 1930s to the 1970s.

They will be based on the memories of 110 people who have been interviewed for the project.

The money has come from the Legacy Trust, set up by the Government to fund arts projects inspired by the 2012 Olympics.

The group has commissioned three professional playwrights to create scripts ready for rehearsals to start next month.

They will take to the stage at a festival from July 29 to August 6 next year.

Six European youth theatres will travel to Wolverhampton from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania and Poland to perform their own plays built around the dances their communities brought when emigrating to the city.

Joe Conti hosted stars like Bob Monkhouse

Former boss of Pepito's and Spinney dies aged 87

A FORMER restaurant boss who hosted comic giants Bob Monkhouse and Ken Dodd at his legendary Wolverhampton club has died at the age of 87.

Joe Conti ran The Spinney Club, Finchfield, and was known around the West Midlands as a gourmet chef.

Mr Conti, who was originally from Italy, moved to London, where he worked at the Savoy, and then came to Wolverhampton in the early 1960s.

He was head waiter at the Victoria Hotel, which is now the Britannia Hotel on Lichfield Street.

From there he launched his own restaurant, Pepito's, in School Street in the city centre. The name means Little Joe in Italian.

In 1960s, he took over running The Spinney Club Italian restaurant and function suite in Walnut Drive.

His son Richard, aged 32, of Wombourne, said: "The Spinney played host to many cabaret nights which included visiting acts at the time including Roy Castle, Bob Monkhouse, Ken Dodd and Tommy Mundon.

IT worker Richard said: "They were up and coming at the time, in the late 70s and early 80s."

He said his father worked tirelessly together with members of the Spinney Club in supporting a numb-er of charities. In the 1980s, he helped to raise £18,000 for Wolverhampton's first mammagram machine.

Vivienne and Joe Conti with comedian Ken Dodd at The Spinney

He and the members of the Spinney also raised £10,000 in 1983 for the Macmillan cancer charity.

Richard said: "He continued to organise a number of sponsored walk's in aid of Compton Hospice."

Mr Conti retired from the Spinney Club in 1993 and it has now been converted into flats.

His culinary flare continues to thrive through his step-daughter Caroline Haddon, 48, who is a partner and chef at The Seven Stars in Beckbury, near Wolverhampton.

Mr Conti, who also leaves a widow, Vivienne, 74, and step-daughter Beverley Shingler-Day, 51, of Telford, had been ill for some time.

Residents' plea on cul-de-sac parking

RESIDENTS in a Wolverhampton cul-de-sac are calling for parking permits to stop people leaving their cars in the road. Wickham Gardens in Heath Town is close to New Cross Hospital and staff have been seen parking their cars there.

Ward councillor Milkinder Jaspal said: "I've spoken to council officers about a residents' parking scheme. The council has said it will be in the next batch of parking schemes but have not said when this will be."

Notification of Amendment to Branch ISA Terms & Conditions

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Ken Mackie

Tributes to long-serving councillor

ONE of the longest-serving councillors in Staffordshire has died, aged 84.

Tributes have been paid to Ken Mackie who died last week after a long battle with cancer. Elected in Bilbrook, near Wolverhampton, on South Staffordshire Council in 1991, he became a Bilbrook parish councillor in the 1960s.

The father-of-two, on the parish council for 44 years, was chairman for more than a decade and also on Seisdon Rural District Council, which merged with Cannock Rural District to become South Staffordshire Council in 1974.

He was district council chairman in 1998-99 – the first time the chairman and consort were serving elected members. His wife, Doris, also served as a Bilbrook councillor until 1997.

As well as chairing South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau from 1995 to 2001 he supported groups, including Codsall Scouts and the 2078 Boscobel Air Squadron cadets.

The Scot and his wife were Caledonian Society and the Scottish Country Dance Society members.

South Staffordshire Council leader Brian Edwards said: "We are all deeply saddened by Ken's death. He represented the people of Bilbrook for many years and was a true gentleman."

Steve Winterflood, council chief executive said: "Councillor Mackie had a long and distinguished record at the council."

Chance for say on off-licence

RESIDENTS in Wolverhampton will get to have their say next month on a plan to turn a former internet cafe into a convenience store and off-licence near a children's centre.

Plans to open the Virgin Booze store, just yards away from the Hope Family Centre in Chervil Rise, Heath Town, will be discussed at a Wolverhampton City Council licensing sub-committee meeting on January 5.

The applicant wants to sell alcohol from 8am-11pm seven days a week.

Objections have been raised by the Hope Family Centre manager Sue Allen, who said the store could lead to increased anti-social behaviour problems on the estate.

But agent Danny Hardy, of Willenhall-based Licensed Trade Legal Services, said the service was intended primarily to be a convenience store, with alcohol from around the world sold to complement foreign food choices.

Alert on packaging

POLICE in Wolverhampton have issued a warning to home owners about throwing out packaging from expensive electrical goods.

They are advising householders to break down and wrap boxes or else to recycle them at council tips rather than leave them on view outside their homes.

Officers say burglars are on the lookout to see what sort of goods have been bought or received.

The advice applies particularly to high-value items such as DVD players, games machines, MP3 players and widescreen TV sets.

Chief Inspector Jo Chilton also advised people to mark all new property with a UV pen and record it on the national database at www.immobilise.com

Damage caused in post office raid

WOULD-BE thieves closed a major Black Country post office after damaging water pipes and sending thousands of gallons of water cascading through the building.

The bungled break-in caused so much damage at Wolverhampton's Lichfield Street post office last week that it had to be closed.

Engineers were called on to the site when the attempted burglary was discovered, assessing the extent of the repairs. The branch was closed for the week with customers left mystified as no explanatory signs were displayed in the window.

Advised

The closure came in the busiest week for post offices across the region.

It is not believed the intruders stole anything.

Sue Dakin, spokeswoman for Post Office Counters, said: "As a result of an attempted break-in at the Lichfield Street branch, substantial damage was caused. Regrettably we have had no option but to close."

Customers were advised to use the Worcester Street and Darlington Street branches. But one customer, grandmother-of-four Mary Sharpe, aged 79, of Birmingham Road, Lanesfield, said: "A lot of elderly people like me can't walk to other branches in this snow."

Bed blocking costing hospitals 3,245 days

wolchron@expressandstar.co.uk

BED blocking at hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire saw more than 3,200 days lost to the NHS in just one month.

Hundreds of patients were left in vital hospital beds even though they were well enough to be discharged during November.

This is because councils are too slow in organising social services care for elderly and vulnerable patients who are then unable to leave hospital. It comes as hospitals are struggling to cope with the winter pressure.

In total across the area there were 3,245 days lost in November when beds could have been made available for sick patients.

At New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton there were 605 days lost due to delays, compared to 518 at Stafford Hospital.

The Dudley Group of Hospitals saw 497 days lost to delays while Walsall Manor suffered 89 days of lost bed capacity.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust, which runs City Hospital in Birmingham, Sandwell General Hospital in West Bromwich and Rowley Regis Hospital in Rowley Regis, lost 1,401 days.

David Loughton, chief executive at New Cross Hospital, said: "The availability of beds is extremely important for our service.

"We are trying to identify what needs to happen to overcome delays that are beyond our control. We understand that unnecessary delays are not good enough, which is why we are doing everything in our power to speed up this process for the sake of our patients and their families."

Suitable

Manjit Obhrai, medical director at Stafford Hospital, said: "We liaise with social services to make sure that plans are in place for any elderly patients who need further care once they have left hospital.

"This does sometimes mean that there is a delay in the patient leaving hospital until a place in a suitable home is located."

Councillor Matthew Ellis, cabinet member for social care in Staffordshire, said the county council was responsible for 98 days lost at Stafford Hospital. He said he was confident the situation would improve when the council launches a new "reablement" service in March.

Prizes as pupils branch out with decorations

Events co-ordinator Val Renwick and plant manager Mark Ball hand over £100 worth of vouchers to pupils at Perton Sandown First School

CREATIVE youngsters earned a Christmas bonus for their Perton school by making some tree-rific decorations.

Perton Sandown First School challenged their pupils, ranging from reception to Year four, to come up with imaginative designs to put on the school tree as part of a competition run by Gardenlands, based on the nearby A454.

Gardenlands, which also provided the school with the tree, judged their designs to be the best and as a reward handed over £100 worth of vouchers.

And as an extra thank you, the school's PTA gave Christmas selection boxes to the artistic pupils.

Headteacher at Perton Sandown, Liz Threlkeld, said: "The children were very inventive and very creative.

"They all deserve a mention for making such beautiful decorations, which they've now taken home."

Mrs Threlkeld added that the vouchers would go towards kicking off the school's gardening projects in time for spring.

Police base opens after a delay of two months

BILSTON'S new £3.5million police station has finally opened – two months later than first planned.

Problems installing the IT equipment at the new station in Railway Street pushed the unveiling back from October.

But officers and other staff have now made the move from the old station in Mount Pleasant.

Building work on the police hub began more than 12 months ago.

Historic

It will act as a hub for five neighbourhood policing teams including Bilston East, Bilston North, Ettingshall, Spring Vale and Blakenhall and will be open to the public every day between 10am and 6pm.

Police chiefs decided that the old base, the West Midland force's second oldest base, was no longer fit for purpose.

The door to the historic station was locked for the final time by Inspector Peter Haywood, sector inspector for Wolverhampton South East.

He said: "We are sad to be leaving the old station but the fact is that it is no longer fit for purpose so the time is right to move on."

Dick Whittington
Birmingham Hippodrome

REVIEW

Refreshingly original take on standard panto

BIRMINGHAM city centre, on a freezing cold snowy December evening with the mercury level edging -7, is the last place you'd expect to find a globally-recognised actress.

Fair play to Joan Collins – multi-award winner and star of Dynasty and numerous other films and television programmes – though, for that's where she was last Tuesday (21).

Granted, the temperature was a little warmer inside the 1,800-capacity Hippodrome Theatre (and rose considerably further still whenever borderline comic Julian Clary frequented the stage).

But despite being a little rusty on her pantomime debut Collins, aged 77, threw herself headfirst into the spirit of things as Queen Rat alongside an impressive supporting cast in Dick Whittington.

This was a refreshingly original take on the standard panto genre, with an overuse of clichés left backstage (I counted just one 'it's behind you').

Nigel Havers, fresh from a hissy-fit jungle performance on I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here, was fair game for his recent travails and played the villain King Rat with gusto.

Loveable rogue Keith Harris and Orville ensured the kids were entertained, as did Walsall-born dame Jeffrey Holland, of Hi-de-Hi! fame.

No expense was spared in the pursuit of panto perfection with elaborate sets, sing-and-dance routines and costumes the norm.

The latter were mostly sported by Clary, playing The Spirit of the Bells, who stole the show with his trademark cutting-edge euphemisms which more than made full use of the pantomime's title.

Dick Whittington runs at the Hippodrome until January 30.

TIM SPIERS

Just the business

A BUSINESS expert who graduated from the University of Wolverhampton will be returning to share his insights at a guest research seminar.

Dr Kevin Mole completed his PhD at the University in 2000 and is now Associate Professor in Enterprise at Warwick Business School, and Assistant Dean (Doctoral Programme). He will return to Wolverhampton on Monday, January 24.

Grants aid for sports clubs

SPORTS clubs across Staffordshire are being offered grants of up to £500 to help them achieve Clubmark and national governing body accreditation.

A sixth round of funding is available, it has been announced. All clubs must be based within Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to qualify and commit to achieving accreditation within six months. Applications can only be submitted to club development manager Chris Turner at cturner@staffordbc.gov.uk. The deadline is January 7.

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The mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Malcolm Gwinnety, with manager of the Holly Bush Inn, Denise Lightwood and pupil from Penn Hall School, Russell Bunn, aged 19

Pupils bury messages for the future with help of nearby pub

YOUNGSTERS from Penn Hall Primary School sent a message to the future by burying a time capsule in the grounds of a Wolverhampton pub.

Newspapers, letters, photographs, DVDs and a school uniform were all included in the capsule, which is now underground at The Holly Bush Inn, Penn Road.

A plaque is also set to be put up at pub with the date of when the capsule was buried. The mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett joined pupils at the ceremony.

Dave Parry, head teacher at the school, in nearby Vicarage Road, said: "We were really glad to be involved in the event, it was a great idea.

"It really challenged the children to think about history by leaving items in the time capsule to be discovered in the future."

Pub manager Denise Lightwood added: "The time capsule is not only a fascinating project for youngsters to take part in, but it's also quite symbolic for us too – we're at the beginning of something exciting with the new-look Holly Bush, which will be around for generations of families to enjoy."

For sale – the forgotten 200-year-old masterpiece The Country Auction

Stab case teenager set to be released

A 16-YEAR-OLD youth who stabbed a man outside a Black Country nightclub to "gain respect" from his friends has had his potentially lifelong sentence overturned by top judges.

He was detained indefinitely for public protection at Wolverhampton Crown Court in August after he admitted wounding with intent in Summit Crescent, Smethwick.

The punishment meant he would be released only if he could convince a parole board he was no longer dangerous.

But the teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is now set to be released after two and a half years following a decision at the Court of Appeal to overturn the open-ended term.

Excessive

The youth was 15 when he stabbed Karl Burris outside Identity Recording Studio, where an event called Vibe was taking place in March.

Mr Burris, aged 21, suffered a punctured lung and a cut to the liver. His brother Kevin died in a car accident as he drove to see him at Birmingham's City Hospital.

The youth had convictions for arson and assaulting a police officer at the time.

A pre-sentence report said he knifed Mr Burris in order to gain "reputation and respect". But his lawyers argued the indefinite sentence was excessive for his age.

He will serve the next seven and a half years of a nine-year sentence on licence in the community.

Unused £10m fire centre to be sold off

wolchron@expressandstar.co.uk

A £10 million fire control centre in the Black Country is to be sold off after standing empty for two years and before taking a single emergency call.

The Regional Control Centre has been scrapped after the government abandoned a national £423m scheme.

The centre was plagued by technical problems after building work began in 2006 and was completed in 2008.

It cost £9.7m and has been costing taxpayers £1.7m a year in rent, maintenance and security costs since. The Labour government had vowed to replace 46 fire control rooms with nine regional centres, including the Wolverhampton complex.

The Stafford Road centre would have handled emergency calls for the West Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester and Warwickshire.

Ninety fire control staff in the region would have lost their jobs under the plan. But the Con-Lib coalition has announced it has reached a deal with main contractor Cassidian to call a halt to the project.

Fire Minister Bob Neill said: "We have jointly concluded the requirements of the project cannot be delivered to an acceptable timeframe. The best outcome is for the contract to be terminated with immediate effect."

Criticism

He said details of the deal would remain "commercially confidential."

Since building work finished the Wolverhampton building has been virtually unused aside from meetings.

Costs associated with the project drew criticism from the Fire Brigades Union which opposed the proposals from the start.

Fire control staff said they were "relieved" while union leaders added they were "elated" the scheme had been scrapped.

Furniture at scrapped site may be divided up

FURNITURE at a scrapped £10 million fire control centre in the Black Country will be sold or divided up between fire services as the Government tries to minimise its losses.

One of the fire services covering the West Midlands could end up taking charge of a £6,000 espresso coffee machine that was installed at the new fire control centre in Wolverhampton two years ago.

The building at Wolverhampton Business Park, off Stafford Road, has cost £9.7m so far to build and has been costing £1.7m a year in rent and security. It could now be sold off with fixtures and fittings but its owner, the Government's Department for Communities and Local Government, has indicated it wants it to remain in use as some kind of fire control centre.

West Midlands Fire Service is unlikely to want the building because it opened its new £20m headquarters in Nechells in January 2009. The furniture may also be split up and given to the five fire services – West Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester and Warwickshire.

The building opened in 2007 but has remained empty because bosses have been unable to iron out problems of merging the control rooms of five different fire services.

Problems included being unable to develop a shared radio scheme that would work in rural areas as well as difficulty merging all the different working practices of each fire service into one system.

Future

The £423m scheme to replace 46 fire control rooms with nine regional centres was dreamed up under the former Labour Government. But following criticism from MPs on all sides the coalition Government has scrapped it.

Sian Williams, spokeswoman for the Department for Communities and Local Government, said: "We are discussing the future of the buildings with representatives from all fire and rescue authorities.

Poles together to raise funds

Pole appeal – fundraiser Jo Ellis, left, and fundraising manager Clare Thomas

FUNDRAISERS in the Black Country are being urged to put on their walking boots and join a charity trek through the Polish mountains.

The challenge has been organised by the Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley to boost funds. Walkers will spend five days trekking though the hills near Pieniny National Park from September 22 to 27.

Along the way they will be stopping in a mixture of guesthouses, hotels and mountain huts. To take part fundraisers need to raise a minimum of £1600, which will be due in July.

Fundraising officer Karen Gullick said: "We are looking for adventurous people to join us on our Mountain Trek in Poland."

The centre has been running for 140 years, helping partially or fully blind people live an independent life. It serves 3,000 people throughout Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, and South Staffordshire.

For further information contact community fundraising officer Karen Gullick on 01902 880111 or log on to the web address which can be found at the website: www. beacon4blind.co.uk

Forgotten painting is for sale at £125,000

A FORGOTTEN 200-year-old masterpiece painted by one of Wolverhampton's most important artists is back in Britain after being returned from Australia – and is now up for sale at £125,000.

The County Auction is an oil painting by Wolverhampton-born Edward Bird dating back to 1812. It was presented in the same year to the prestigious Royal Academy in London.

More recently it was owned by the National Gallery of Victoria, in Melbourne, Australia, but it is now being sold by London West End art dealer Richard Green.

Portrait of Edward Bird

Importance

The recently rediscovered picture is rated as one of Bird's cleverest pictures.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery owns the preparatory oil sketch which Bird produced before he started the painting.

The gallery also owns 19 oil paintings and eight drawings by Bird,who was born at Cat Yard, Berry Street, in 1772.

After attending the Free Grammar School,in Wolverhampton, Bird was apprenticed, at the age of 13, as a japanning artist to the firm of Jones and Taylor at the Old Hall Works in Wolverhampton.

He spent the first half of his life in Wolverhampton before moving to Bristol in or around 1794.

Bird's importance as an artist was officially confirmed on February 10,1815, just three years after he produced The Country Auction when he was elected to the Royal Academy.

This entitled him to place the letters RA after his name.

Since the Royal Academy was founded in 1768,there have been only around 600 Royal Academicians.

Bird died aged 47 in 1819.

Palace date for lifesaver

A YOUNG life-saver from Wolverhampton kept a date at Buckingham Palace where he was presented with a young achiever award by the Princess Royal.

Ashley Bentley was among 75 young people honoured at the St John Ambulance Young Achievers' Reception.

The 16-year-old, a member of the Bushbury unit, was nominated because of his accomplishments despite suffering from dyspraxia, a type of learning disability.

He has been a qualified first aider for six years.

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thechronicle

Celebrations to mark city decade

A YEAR of celebrations has been announced to mark the 10th anniversary since Wolverhampton became a city.

Planned events throughout 2011 will see the anniversary theme used throughout the year. Thousands of children will learn the history of the city as schools will be asked to run lessons commemorating the event.

Meanwhile historic books will be put on display and Wolverhampton's landmarks will once again throw open their doors in September. But bosses said that with 28 per cent budget cuts being imposed they could not afford any extra money to mark the year.

Wolverhampton was one of three towns granted city status by the Queen in 2000, along with Inverness and Brighton and Hove.

In total 39 towns had applied to be one of the Queen's millennium cities.

Since it became a city Wolverhampton has seen its Market Square redeveloped, the refurbishment of the landmark Molineux Hotel and art gallery and a new £12 million leisure centre in Wednesfield.

Work has also started on a £22.5m bus station and there are plans for a £67m business park, the i54 in Fordhouses.

Among the features are a special 10th anniversary theme for Wolverhampton's floral displays, a story competition organised by Wolverhampton's libraries service, displays of historic books and other exhibitions.There will be resource packs for schools and a "health challenge" linking other millennium cities including Brighton and Hove and Inverness.

Tessa Sanderson

Baths site deal for Olympic champion

A DEAL is being drawn up to allow a charity set up by Wolverhampton Olympic star Tessa Sanderson to take over a disused city baths.

Heath Town Baths has been empty for more than four years and has become a target for vandals. Officers at Wolverhampton City Council met recently to discuss giving the gold medallist javelin thrower a year's exclusivity on the site, meaning no-one else could buy it.

This would allow Tessa, who grew up in the city, the time to raise funds to buy the site and turn it into a sports academy for young people.

There would be an emphasis on martial arts as well as other sports, and the British Judo Association would be involved with running the Tudor Road building.

Opportunity

Tessa, aged 54, who runs the Tessa Sanderson Foundation and Academy, said: "We've only just started but we want to grab this opportunity and do something in Heath Town and Wednesfield. "Everyone in the area used to go and swim at Heath Town baths and I really want to bring that building back into use."

Tessa is working on the proposals with her judo star husband Densign White and Kerrith Brown, who attended Heath Park School before representing Great Britain in judo.

It is hoped the building will be open and running as an academy in time for the 2012 Olympics and the interest in sport that the Games is likely to generate.

Travel inspires art exhibition

THE second part of a travel-inspired exhibition opened at Wolverhampton Art Gallery this week.

Journey into the Contemporary Collection – Part Two showcases dozens of photographs taken by artists from around the world. It was due to open on Wednesday (29) and will run until February 11.

Featured artists and photographers will include Lisa Milroy, Jeremy Deller, and Tom Hunter. The first part of the display, which consisted largely of installation pieces closed earlier this month.

Major cuts to hit schools rebuilding

wolchron@expressandstar.co.uk

DEVASTATING funding cuts will hit plans to rebuild and refurbish every secondary school in Wolverhampton.

The £370 million Building Schools for the Future scheme for all 26 city secondary schools survived the axe by the coalition government.

Areas like Sandwell had theirs scrapped completely. But it has now emerged the projects will be dramatically scaled back due to the government demanding cuts of up to 40 per cent.

Wolverhampton City Council admitted it was considering abandoning plans to rebuild some schools as well as providing only minor, rather than major, refurbishments to others.

Bosses are also pleading with the government not to cut the budgets for Coppice, Wednesfield, South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy and Braybook schools, which have already received planning permission.

Projects where work has already started to create new buildings for Highfields Science Specialist School and Pennfields Special School, and the refurbishment of King's School and Tettenhall Wood School, will not be affected.

Tim Westwood, the council's programme director for BSF, said: "The efficiencies we will be able to make will vary from one school to another and will very much depend on the needs and requirements of the individual school.

"It is clear schools in need of major refurbishments will have to take priority over schools in a better condition, but we want to ensure that every BSF school in Wolverhampton will still receive great benefits from the programme, even if the work we are able to do may be slightly reduced."

Wolverhampton South East Labour MP Pat McFadden warned the funding cuts would be "hugely damaging".

He said the 40 per cent cuts being demanded by the government from the city's £370 million Building Schools for the Future programme was a U-turn on an earlier promise.

Signed

Wolverhampton was one of very few areas in Britain told by the coalition government that its school rebuilding scheme could go ahead.

The scheme was too far advanced to scrap because a deal had already been signed with city building giant Carillion just days before the General Election.

Mr McFadden said: "We were told back in July that Wolverhampton's Building Schools for the Future was unaffected.

"But if the government cuts it by such a large amount, it will be hugely damaging to both the refurbishment and the building programme for the city."

He said it would be very difficult to make the cuts because so much money had already been committed.

Schools to be affected

Schools with plans affected by cuts:

Deansfield High School
(major refurbishment, August 2013)
Colton Hills Community School
(major refurbishment, August 2013)
Moseley Park School and Technology College
(major refurbishment, August 2013)
Heath Park Business and Enterprise College
(rebuild, September 2013)
Aldersley High School
(major refurbishment, Feb 2014)
Moreton School
(major refurbishment, February 2014)
Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Sports College
(major refurbishment, February 2014)
North East Wolverhampton Academy
(rebuild on site Pendeford High School, Feb 2014)
Smestow School
(major refurbishment, February 2014)
Westcroft School and Sports College
(major refurbishment, February 2014)
New Park School
(refurbishment, September 2014)
Penn Hall School
(refurbishment, Sep 2014)
St Peter's Collegiate School
(major refurbishment, September 2014)
St Edmund's Catholic School
(major refurbishment, September 2014)
Wolverhampton Girls High School
(major refurbishment, September 2014)
The Midpoint Centre
(new build, September 2014)
The Orchard Centre
(refurbishment, Sep 2014)
Green Park School
(computer technology only)

Schools with planning permission:
South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy
(new build, September 2012)
Wednesfield High School
(major refurbishment, February 2013)
The Braybrook Centre
(major refurbishment, February 2013)
Coppice Performing Arts School
(major refurbishment, February 2013)

Schools definitely not affected:
Highfields Science Specialist and Penn Fields School
The Kings Church of England School and Tettenhall Wood School

Construction under way

Saba Saleem (8), headteacher Mostyn Mahoney and Thomas Walsh (8) cut the first sod for the new Tettenhall Wood School

WORK has begun on the construction of a new special school in Wolverhampton.

Tettenhall Wood School is moving from its current base on School Road to new premises on the site of The King's School in Regis Road as part of a £370 million scheme to rebuild or refurbish the city's secondary schools.

A sod-cutting ceremony was held to mark the official start of work on the new purpose-built school for Tettenhall Wood's 90 pupils, aged from five to 19.

The co-location of Tettenhall Wood will allow the two schools to share a resources including sports and visual arts facilities, while the expertise of Tettenhall Wood staff will help King's School support pupils with special educational needs.

Tettenhall Wood headteacher Mostyn Mahoney said: "The new school which has been design to meet the increasingly complex needs of our pupils."

The new-look schools are due to open in 2012.

Lab test firm in plan for i54 site

PLANS for a Wolverhampton firm to move on to the city's £67 million i54 business park have been recommended for approval.

Laboratory testing company Eurofins wants to set up a new home on the site in moves that would safeguard 180 jobs.

Eurofins hopes to follow in the footsteps of aerospace giant Moog, the first confirmed tenant of the business park near the M54 in Wobaston Road, Fordhouses, which was granted planning permission for its new base last month.

Its proposals to move from its current home at Woodthorne, in Wergs Road, Tettenhall, were recommended for approval by South Staffordshire Council's regulatory committee.

Standards

The plans are for a 16,404 sq ft food and environmental testing laboratory.

A report to the committee states: "The landscape scheme, general layout, parking and design of the building meet the high standards required of the site."

The report adds that the project is a "further positive step" in the development of the i54 site to attract research and hi-tech industry to South Staffordshire.

It says the scheme is in line with the council's aspirations to promote the provision of accessible employment opportunities.

Housing perk allowance top-up for police chief

THE £144,000 salary of West Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims is being topped up with an allowance to help pay for his house.

He claims the money as part of a perk that allows officers to receive a subsidy towards rent and mortgage payments. It was not revealed how much Mr Sims receives, but the total bill for West Midlands and Staffordshire is almost £12 million a year.

And in the West Midlands the subsidy is paid at an average of £2,322 for each eligible person, costing the force £9.1m in 2009/10.

There are 10 officers on salaries of more than £80,000 who claim the perk. They also include an assistant chief constable earning a total of £103,000. The revelations come as the force faces up to its budget falling from £513.8m to £480.3m.

Councillor Bob Jones, finance chief on West Midlands Police Authority, said it would be a "very helpful contribution" if senior officers chose not to claim their full entitlement.

Serving officers who joined the police force before September 1994 are entitled to the rent or housing perk, paid regardless of whether they own a home or rent privately.

It dates back to a time when police officers were allowed to live in police-owned accommodation.

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Doormats back at city flats

HOUSING bosses who banned doormats in blocks of flats for health and safety reasons have shelled out nearly £18,000 of rent payers' money to buy communal mats.

Wolverhampton Homes, which runs council houses on behalf of the local authority, imposed a "zero tolerance" approach to tenants having their own doormats last year. But following complaints that people would not have anywhere to wipe their feet, the group have now bought 1,624 mats for 762 low and medium rise blocks.

Bosses said they would be cleaned every three months, putting further cost on the rent payers. The total cost has come to £17,864. The no-doormat policy was introduced following a devastating fire at a high-rise block in London.

But it has been criticised as being over the top. It was recently relaxed for Christmas to allow tenants to hang a wreath on their doors but no other decorations or ornaments are allowed.

Changed

The mats, just under a metre wide, are in the communal lobbies at the front entrances and in some blocks, at the rear. They cost just over £11each and are changed every three months, cleaned and replaced if they go missing.

Kate Hughes, spokeswoman for Wolverhampton Homes, said: "Fire safety is very important to our customers but they have told us that they also want us to make sure the communal areas are clean.

"That's why we found this solution for them. There was an extensive value-for-money review prior to the purchase of the mats to ensure the best possible deal. Customers will not pay a service charge for them. The mats are fire retardant to British Standard and non-slip tested."

Liberal Democrat councillor Richard Whitehouse has previously called for the rules to be scrapped in favour of a commonsense approach.

He said: "This is rent payers' money being spent when the tenants themselves would have been perfectly happy to provide their own door mats.

Fitness fans box clever for hospice

MORE than 100 fitness fans packed into a South Staffordshire leisure centre to take part in a charity boxercise challenge.

Teams from four leisure centres, including Wombourne, Cheslyn Hay, Codsall and Penkridge, competed in the fundraiser in aid of Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

The event was organised by fitness instructor Paul Sabin, who said it could become an annual challenge as it was such a huge success.

"It went fantastic," he said. "Everyone really enjoyed taking part.

"It was the first time we have done anything like this but could become a regular event."

The winning team was from Codsall leisure centre. Teams of eight people competed in a 10-round relay challenge.

"We had about 138 people come along which,

Competitors, including Lynda Bailey and John Price, who took part in the boxercise challenge held at Codsall Leisure Centre in aid of Compton Hospice

Quarter of children are obese at 10

ALMOST a quarter of children across the Black Country are clinically obese by the time they reach the age of 10.

In Wolverhampton the number of obese children in reception class, aged four and five, is 12.2 per cent. This doubles to 24.6 per cent by the time they reach the age of 10 or 11. In Dudley, the number of reception age children who are obese is 10.2 per cent, rising to 23.8 per cent by Year 10.

In Sandwell it is 11.9 per cent, rising to 23.5 per cent, while in Walsall the figures are 10.6 per cent, jumping to 21.6 per cent. In South Staffordshire, 10.1 per cent of reception age children are obese with 18.3 per cent obese by the age of 10 or 11.

The figures have emerged as part of the Government's National Child Measurement Programme.

Dr Adrian Philips, director of public health in Wolverhampton, described the obesity problems among children as a challenge.

He said: "It is a scandalous statistic that one in four kids in Wolverhampton are clinically obese by Year 6 in school. At about age five it is one in eight, during those five or six years the number of obese children increases to one in four."

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Crematorium work to end next month

A £1.7 MILLION redevelopment of Bushbury Crematorium will be completed next month. Work on the East Chapel is almost complete and it is expected to reopen in January.

It has been shut since September when contractors started the second phase of the modernisation of the crematorium which will allow it to accept larger coffins and caskets.

West Chapel had been closed between March and September while work was carried out there. The site's four cremators have been replaced and doors to both chapels have been widened.

Contractors are completing rewiring and redecorating of East Chapel as the project moves into its final weeks.

The new cremators have larger capacities and will also meet strict new government legislation regarding mercury abatement. The crematorium is the second busiest in the region, with 2,500 services annually.

Wolverhampton City Council spokesman Paul Brown said: "Work on the West Chapel was successfully completed in the autumn with contractors now well advanced on the re-wiring and redecorating of the East Chapel and the installation of a new energy-efficient lighting system.

"The two remaining cremators have also been installed and are currently awaiting commissioning.

Extend

"It is expected that once this has been completed the East Chapel will reopen in January.

"During the redevelopment, any disruptions have been kept to a minimum."

Plans are also in place to extend the existing cemetery at Bushbury by around a third, creating 8,100 much-needed burial plots.

Only three of Wolverhampton's seven council run cemeteries still have space for new graves. The extension will increase the size of the cemetery by around six hectares.

All smiles as Santas step out

WALKERS donned Santa hats for a bracing ramble in Wolverhampton. Santa joined walkers for a one-mile Christmas hike around East Park recently.

A three-and-a-half mile Seven Cornfields walk took place along quiet back streets and country paths in the city, taking in views of Clee Hill.

Another walk was due to take place the following week when more than 100 people were due to step out for a one-and-a-half mile torchlight Christmas parade from All Saints Church, in All Saints Road.

Popular

They were followed by Christmas carols and free hot drinks and mince pies in the church.

The treks are organised as part of Wolverhampton's popular Walking for Health scheme

Recently former Wolverhampton Wanderers' goalkeeper Matt Murray joined walkers in West Park.

To find out more phone Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust on 01902 444061 or visit walkingforhealth@wolvespct.nhs.uk

Andrew Tomlinson, Pete Bridgen and Roy Beddows, front, with fellow walkers taking part in the Christmas celebration one-mile hike at East Park

Course hits the Mark

THE Forensic Science course at the University of Wolverhampton has received a top endorsement.

The Forensic Skillsmark has only been given to five universities in the UK so far, and Wolverhampton is the first in the West Midlands to receive it.

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thechronicle LETTERS

Beating heart disease – with laughter

Help us beat heart disease, one laugh at a time. Just 36 per cent of women in the West Midlands know heart disease is the biggest killer of UK women. According to our survey, 51 per cent believe it to be breast cancer. But the reality is that heart disease kills three times more women than breast cancer.

We at the British Heart Foundation are running a campaign to challenge these statistics and quite literally put the heart centre-stage for women. We've got together with Victoria Wood and more of the UK's best loved comedians to host the Angina Monologues, a night of fantastic comedy focused on affairs of the heart.

The show is being taken from the stage to the screen. Visit www.angina-monologues.co.uk for some important information on how to cherish your heart.

BETTY MCBRIDE
The British Heart Foundation

Hospital parking a real headache

I read your article regarding hospital parking, with dismay.

As one who parks on the Wednesfield road when visiting New Cross Hospital, I would make the point that it is not to avoid the parking fee. At peak times, such as afternoon and evening visiting, it is often impossible to drive into the hospital, let alone find a parking space.

When I left the hospital after my physiotherapy during the hours of afternoon visiting last week, the traffic on the route around the hospital was completely grid-locked. Not even the ambulances could get through !

So, using commonsense, people who are sufficiently able-bodied have found a solution which inconveniences hardly anyone.

The Wednesfield road is no longer a trunk route, thanks to the bypass and is wide enough to accomodate parking on each side, between the hospital and the junction with the main road. This is a small contribution to reduce the congestion on the hospital site, which the council, in their wisdom, are now to make impossible.

I would also make the point that parking at New Cross, should you be lucky enough to have an off-peak appointment time, is unnecessarily complicated, with barriers, fencing, bollards, and machines everywhere. I certainly don't find that user-friendly. A man in a kiosk who you could pay on the way in or out would be far easier, if less cost effective.

The imposition of a parking fee is a different matter but the point should be made that charging to park at a hospital is effectively a tax on the sick and elderly, and this should be addressed. But even if it were free, you still couldn't get in at peak times. Access is the problem, not people trying to avoid a parking fee.

KEN STOTT
Outpatient

BRIDGE CORNER

LAST week I detailed the sad story of a doubled One No Trump contract that not only made but scored an overtrick.

This week I shall explain what went wrong and how to avoid it in future!

1: West ducked East's lead of the nine of clubs, thus finessing her partner. When East leads her long suit she expects West to play her highest card.

2: East covered the 10 of diamonds with the jack, enabling Declarer to promote the nine in dummy. Don't blindly cover an honour with an honour. Do so only to promote a card in partner's hand. As the nine was visible in Dummy there was nothing to promote.

3: East smacked the ace of hearts on Declarer's lead of the six. Aces exist to slaughter kings. Second hand plays low (most of the time).

	♠ J106 ♥ KJ96 ♦ AQ7 ♣ J76	
♠ A72 ♥ 52 ♦ J643 ♣ Q1032		♠ KQ3 ♥ AQ74 ♦ 52 ♣ AK98
	♠ 9854 ♥ 1083 ♦ K1098 ♣ 54	

4: Having taken the ace, East then returned the queen. If Declarer plays a suit, she's looking to set up tricks in it – especially in No Trumps. Don't do the work for her.

5: When looking for a suit to play, it often helps to look at what Declarer is throwing and play that.

Don't forget that you'll be defending 50 per cent of the hands. Get the Defence right and you will score well.

Players who wish to hone their bidding and play are welcome to join us on a Saturday morning. Phone Jenny on 01902 756859.

Visit the website for Wolverhampton Bridge Club, www.bridgewebs.com/wolverhampton

– Jenny

LOUISE LOOKS BACK 50 YEARS

Star-studded sporting events in Wolverhampton lured thousands of families from their fireside televisions to swell gate funds in the most sporting Christmas Wolverhampton had ever known.

More than 74,000 people packed the town's football fields, racing stadiums, rugger pitches and village greens in three days. Christmas had proved a new peak in the get-away from the telly trend which has boosted sports from football to archery.

On Boxing Day Wolves had their second biggest gate of the season – 43,558 spectators crammed into Molineux to cheer themselves hoarse as Wolves lashed Aston Villa 3-2, their second win against Villa in two days.

Dunstall Park race course crowds were nearly a third more than the previous year – when 13,000 fans turned up for a day of excitement. They got value for money. Five races were neck and neck and had to be clinched by photo-finish cameras. The £60,791 tote turnover was £3,374 up on the previous year.

At Willenhall greyhound track the only warm things were the dogs – stadium thermometers flashed at freezing point. But vast crowds swarmed into both Monmore Green and William stadiums on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

There was a special touch in the amateurs Sunday League game when Jimmy Mullen, former Wolves outside-left, turned out to play with Brickkiln Old Boys on Christmas morning.

Rugby fans saw Wolverhampton Rugby Club lose 6-3 in their Christmas Eve game with Shrewsbury at Castlecroft and draw 3-3 at Walsall on Boxing Day.

And out at Bobbington, the rural air was pierced by arrows as Wombourne archers battled for prizes with the Bowmen of Seisdon Hundred.

● ● ●

Left-over Christmas turkeys were being sold off at 4s 6d. a pound in Wolverhampton. Housewives were rushing to buy the birds for New Year parties, though butchers were keeping their surplus stocks in deep freeze to sell off gradually over a few weeks.

Taxi drivers were complaining about poor trade over Christmas and blamed the fact that Christmas fell on a Sunday.

● ● ●

Work on Wolverhampton's first subway – across the Salop Street – School Street junction was due to start and a vast traffic diversion system was in operation to keep the crossroads clear.

ABOVE: The medical and nursing staff of the New Cross Hospital held a Christmas Dance at the Victoria Hotel, Wolverhampton. Here, Sally Ryan (24), Mary McGlone (24) and Anne Teresa Dunne (23) take a well earned rest from dancing for refreshments

RIGHT: It may have been cold outside but these partygoers found that dancing was warm work at Bowmaker's Christmas dance at the Wulfrun Hall

Christmas Day was only three and a three-quarter hours old when baby Helena Plant arrived at Beeches Maternity Home, Tettenhall Road

Bus fare rise tops the inflation barrier

BUS FARES in the West Midlands will be increased by an inflation-busting 5.8 per cent from January 2.

The announcement has been criticised as "disgusting" by Wolverhampton Councillor Judith Rowley, who sits on the region's transport authority Centro.

The price of a single National Express West Midlands fare will go up from £1.70 to £1.80. And the price of a Daysaver ticket will rise by nearly three per cent, from £3.50 to £3.60.

Bosses said revenue would go towards investing in the region's bus network next year, including the introduction of 120 new vehicles.

Metro fares will also increase under the changes. The cost of an adult Metro Daytripper ticket will go up from £4.40 to £4.50, an increase of 2.27 per cent, while a family Daytripper ticket will go up 5.8 per cent from £8.50 to £9.

Dave Kaye, managing director of National Express Bus UK, said: "We realise these are tough times and have kept the increase to a minimum to allow us to reinvest in the network, meet rising business costs and maintain our extensive local workforce.

Scrapped

"Fares in the West Midlands are still excellent value when compared to other major cities and our focus in 2011 is improving the quality of journey for all our customers.

"We are already planning to introduce 120 new vehicles to the network and have recently installed technology which monitors driving standards across the fleet."

The Eveningsaver ticket, giving unlimited use on all National Express West Midlands and Coventry buses after 6pm, is being scrapped.

Councillor Rowley said: "This rise hit bus users very hard and will impact upon people who rely upon the bus to get to work or to seek good quality, cheap food from markets.

"This is an increase in price following a reduction in the number of services earlier this year."

It's time to say farewell

From left, Joshua Lee, aged 12, teacher Alison Smith, Tre Robinson, 18, Emily Hollinsworth, 18, and Lauren Smith, nine, saying farewell to Green Park School

CHILDREN and staff bid farewell to their old school building which is being demolished as a new era dawns for education in part of Wolverhampton.

The old Green Park School on Green Park Avenue, Bilston, is to be knocked down and children transferred to a new site known as the Willows Campus, which is also on Green Park Avenue, and which houses Stowlawn School and a community centre.

Lorraine Dawney, who has been headteacher at the special school since 2003, said children had made memory boxes containing their fondest recollections of school life. She said staff and youngsters felt lucky to be moving to a building with better facilities.

The new site features a science room, drama studio and soft play rooms.

The school's 108 pupils, who are aged between three and 19, are transferring in stages. They will have finished transferring to the new site after Christmas.

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Bedroom mock-up as building takes shape

A BEDROOM has been mocked up by builders of the new-look Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton so that they can get the specifications exactly right for patients.

Exposed bricks and wooden roof beams propped with scaffolding can now be seen inside the main site and the new rooms, which are being built at an overall cost of £3.5 million.

Eighteen single, en-suite patient rooms are being built at the Compton Road West site, as well as improved day care facilities and better consulting and therapy areas for a range of treatments including physiotherapy. The mocked-up bedroom has been created at the hospice by developers E Manton Ltd, which has provided a template.

The builders' mock-up bedroom

Work started on the redevelopment of the interior of the main patient building in August and is set to continue until May 2011.

The hospice launched the Raising the Roof capital appeal in April to collect £1m for the work.

Dr David Fairlamb, chairman of the trustees at the hospice, said: "The formation of the mock-up bedroom has enabled senior hospice estate staff and nurses to discuss with our architects and the builders the fine-tuning of the patient facilities.

"It's allowed for things like the light switches to be changed and the height of the wash basins to be altered so that we get the best result in each room. It also means delays are avoided."

Workmen in one of the main hallways at the Compton Hospice site

Patient Rose Leaver, aged 79, and therapist Clare Mills with festive latch hook rugs made at Compton Hospice

Hospice full of talent

TALENTED patients and staff have contributed to the rich tapestry of life at Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Twenty-five people, including hospice chaplain Fr Barry Smart, have been busy creating a colourful rug which is to be displayed in the new day centre.

Patients attending the day centre have spent the last six months putting together the wall hanging, which is a scene of the front of their historic building.

And they were so inspired by their success that they kept hold of their implements and completed a rich array of individual festive-themed rugs.

Diversional therapist Clare Mills, who was behind the project, said "There were lots of laughs and even some tears, as people worked on it. The tapestry really brought people together," she said.

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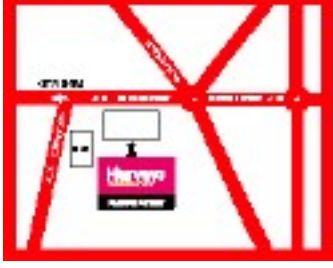

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Ton-up Edna says friends are a tonic

Edna Foxall celebrating her 100th birthday with her friend Sylvia Pettitt

CLEAN living and good friends – that is the secret to one Wolverhampton 100-year-old's remarkable long life.

Edna Foxall has lived in the same house in the Blakenhall area for 70 years and still does as many household chores for herself as she can. She celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by friends at Lanesfield Methodist Church, where she goes for a luncheon club every week.

The spinster spent 42 years as a draper's assistant at the former Whild's shop apart from a three-and-a-half year spell with the post office.

Her nieces Olive and Margaret, and Olive's husband John, also joined Miss Foxall for her special day.

Mini-village plan 'not achievable'

A LONG-AWAITED "mini village" development to include 520 homes, shops and a community centre, to transform 43 acres of redundant land in Wolverhampton, is "not achievable", council bosses have admitted.

The Ward Street masterplan for Ettingshall has been in the pipeline for more than four years. But Wolverhampton City Council has now decided to instead use £1.3 million of external funding earmarked for it to help make the separate Blakenhall Gardens development a reality.

Council bosses insisted the Ward Street masterplan could still happen because the first phase of 60 homes does not need a subsidy.

In a report to the full council meeting regeneration chief Councillor Paddy Bradley said: "Further detailed consideration of proposals to meet the grant conditions has resulted in agreement that Ward Street was not achievable and would be re-allocated

"Conversely, resources have been made available for Blakenhall Gardens and there is still opportunity to identify further possibilities if they can be delivered by end of March 2011."

Blakenhall Gardens has seen significant investment over the last 10 years with the demolition of six council-owned tower blocks and St Luke's Infant School as well as the construction of the new awarding-winning St Luke's Primary School and the Blakenhall Community and Healthy Living Centre.

The final part of the project will provide 102 new family houses and 10 shops.

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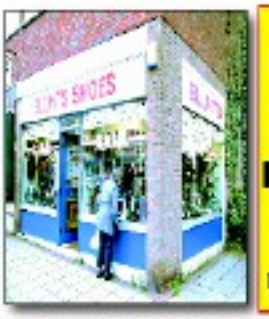

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Clearance reveals rare videodiscs

A HAUL of around 50 rare videodiscs has been uncovered by a Black Country recycling centre.

Workers at Recyk, Park Village, Wolverhampton, found the discs – created some 20 years before the first DVDs – at a house clearance. Videodiscs are an outmoded home video format.

Circular but five times bigger than modern CDs, they were widely tipped as the future of home video in the early 1980s, but they required an expensive specialised disc player and ultimately failed to match the emerging video cassette format.

Marie Bond and Andy Barrs, from Recyk, Wolverhampton, with some of the 50 rare videodiscs

Interest

Very few remain in the UK due to their poor sales.

Recyk manager Andy Barrs said: "We expect they'll be of interest to enthusiasts rather than the general public because of how rare they are.

"Given that it's Christmas it may be that a collector, or someone who knows a collector, shows a bit of interest in them.

"It's a pity there wasn't a player alongside them.

"There's a mix of cartoons and feature films, dating to the early 1980s."

Recyk collects and restores goods that have been thrown away before repairing them and selling them on or giving them away to a charity.

The organisation's premises have become an Aladdin's Cave of oddities over the past two decades. For details on how to donate or discuss collecting items call 01902 863838.

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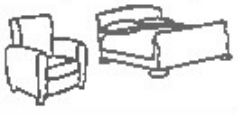

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Michael Foot

Tom Bosley

Dick Francis

Lena Horne

Lynn Redgrave

Jean Simmons

Leslie Nielsen

Alex Higgins

Cyril Smith

Tony Curtis

Sir Norman Wisdom

Loveable fool Norman lost

This year we said goodbye to one of the great talents from the heyday of the British film industry, Sir Norman Wisdom. The acting dynasty of the Redgraves was hit again with the death of Lynn whose first major film role was as Georgy Girl.

Hollywood legends Jean Simmons, Dennis Hopper and Tony Curtis also died.

Simmons will perhaps be best remembered for her role alongside Kirk Douglas in Spartacus and Hopper's career spanned almost 50 years. He became regarded as one of the truly great talents of cinema while Curtis had starred in some of the most memorable films of all time not least of which was Some Like It Hot.

Boxing fans were saddened by the demise of Harry Carpenter who covered some of the biggest fights in the sport and who will always be associated with Frank Bruno and his catchphrase "Know wharramean 'arry."

Also gone from the sporting arena was the mercurial Alex "Hurricane" Higgins whose rapid style of play revolutionised the game.

It was a bad year for the literary world too with the deaths of Dick Francis and JD Salinger who will forever be associated with the death of John Lennon through his book Catcher in the Rye.

From the world of politics the year said goodbye to former Labour leader Michael Foot and larger than life Liberal MP Cyril Smith famous.

The arena of music had its share of losses too with jazz singer Lena Horne, soul singer Teddy Pendergrass and musician Sir John Dankworth.

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Burnup Cambidge, Roger Pendrill, Philip Mould and John Hockaday leave Tinfou

Roger Pendrill, Burnup Cambidge, John Hockaday and Philip Mould in Marrakesh

Reunion was a pretty tall order

MOST school reunions involve a drink or two down the local. But that wasn't exciting enough for former students from Wolverhampton's Tettenhall College.

They ditched a conventional get-together and took on a once-in-a-lifetime challenge to mark 40 years since they left school.

The group flew to Morocco, from where they took part in a gruelling 400-mile cycling trip across the Sahara Desert and Atlas Mountains.

Roger Pendrill, aged 57, Major Philip Mould (57), John Hockaday (58) and Burnup Cambidge (57) completed a section of the mountain range, before scaling its highest peak, Toubkal mountain, on foot.

The school pals have remained close over the decades, despite John moving to New Zealand, from Norton, near Shifnal, to work as an accountant.

Roger said: "We were all in the same year at school. I met Burnip in 1963 but John and Phillip joined two years later. Phillip and Burnup were boarders so they struck up a friendship over that, but John and I were day boys. We all played rugby. We were all sporty in those days.

Altitude

"We have all gone on to do different things but nobody is going to do a bit of one-upmanship because we all know where we come from."

It was Phillip who had the idea of a reunion involving cycling through Morocco and trekking up Toukbal Mountain.

The idea was greeted with enthusiasm and soon the team tackled temperatures ranging between 35C (95F) in the Sahara and subzero at altitude, as well as sleeping under the stars in the desert.

Roger, a chiropodist who lives near Bridgnorth, said: "We had to get up at 5.30 every morning to cover the distance we needed, and because it is pitch black in the desert by 6pm, you need to pitch your camp in the light to avoid sleeping on a scorpion's nest," he said.

Toukbal mountain involved an 11-hour trek up 3,600 metres but the team also needed to hire mules to carry their equipment, and the road to the mountain's base ended 25 miles from it. Roger said: "There was a road, but it ran out and there were 25 miles of rocky track to cover to get to the base.

Struggle

"We had to cajole a local driver into taking us and It took about four hours.

"When we got there it looked like something from Lord of the Rings and we were never really sure if we were in the right place or whether people really understood what we were trying to do, because we were often speaking in broken French."

The team managed to struggle up and over the mountain, with the help of two guides and two mules, in about 11 hours.

This part of the trip was always expected to be the hardest, since three of the four have health problems. Roger explained before the trip that Philip had damaged his hips from too many parachute jumps, John is a diabetic and Burnup has a heart problem.

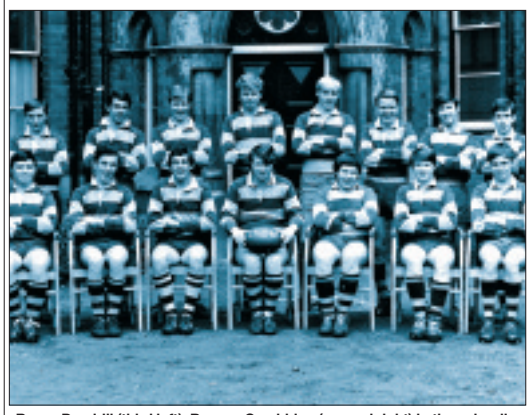
"It was definitely the toughest bit, especially with a 500ft drop on on side and mountains on the other," he said.

"But we all managed it and went over the top together. That was probably the best bit because we knew the hardest part was over."

They spent the night in a lodge before walking another three hours to the base of the mountain to start the ride into Marrakesh.

This took five days, and they spent a further three days in Marrakesh to visit the souks, picking up gifts of watches, bags and kaftans for their wives.

Burnup Cambidge (third left), John Hockaday (third right) Philip Mould (fourth right0, as members of Tettenhall College's 1966 school rugby U13s



Roger Pendrill (third left), Burnup Cambidge (second right) in the school's U15s rugby team

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Providing an exemplary service is the key to their success and every year hundreds of delighted **customers recommend Avanti to others...** Discover the benefits of choosing Avanti by visiting any of their newly refurbished kitchen and bedroom showrooms, and see the stylish room displays that really bring their designs to life.

Avanti's ethical approach

Avanti's ethical approach extends to taking its responsibilities towards the environment seriously. Their investment in a factory waste management system has resulted in wood waste being converted into heat for the factory, as well as lowering their impact on landfill sites to almost zero.

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KIDDERMINSTER - Kitchens & Bedrooms 44b Mill Street, Kidderminster DY11 6RD. (Tel: 01562 823640)
RUGBY - Kitchens & Bedrooms 38 Somers Road Ind Est, Rugby CV22 7DB. (Tel: 01788 551550)
SHIRLEY - Kitchens & Bedrooms AVON House, 411 Stratford Road, Shirley B90 4AA. (Tel: 0121 745 8039)
SOLIHULL - Kitchens & Bedrooms Station Road, Lode Lane Ind Est, B91 2DU. (Tel: 0121 704 0188)
STREETLY - Kitchens & Bedrooms 332 Aldridge Road, Streetly B74 2DT. (Tel: 0121 353 6088)
WOLVERHAMPTON - Kitchens 317a Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV3 8DT. (Tel: 01902 629606)
WALSALL WOOD - Kitchens & Bedrooms Saxon Court Ind Est, Lichfield Road, WS9 9AQ. (Tel: 01543 361720)

STOURBRIDGE - **HEAD OFFICE** Hayes Lane, Lye DY9 8RD. (Tel: 01384 893929)
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Way to join the eBook revolution on a budget

THE BookBox from View Quest is a great budget eBook reader for those who don't want to fork out for one of the more expensive electronic readers or tablets.

It also doubles as a media centre, able to play videos, display photos and play music.

It's main task, displaying eBooks, is handled well. The five inch high-resolution backlit display with its anti-glare TFT screen can be read in bright sunshine or darkness with adjustable brightness, background and text colours.

There are the bookmarking, auto flip, zoom and screen rotation features that you would expect. The discrete button control system is easy to use with on-screen guides.

All mainstream eBook formats are applicable, including Adobe DRM eBooks now widely available to download, and such everyday formats as PDF, ePub, TXT and HMTL. Graphic novels, comics and PDF brochures look particularly impressive. The video, photo and music functions are easy to use with a nice crisp video image. All the major video formats are catered for including avi, wmv, mp4, mov, xvid and divx.

You have to pop on a pair of phones for sound and a background music function allows you to listen to tunes whilst reading.

The BookBox has a rubberized case which gives it nice hand feel and comes with a reasonably generous 2GB of internal memory (enough for thousands of eBooks).

There is also a slot for a SD/SDHC/MMC memory card for those who want to take lots of videos or a few libraries' worth of entertainment around with them. Battery life is around six hours for reading and 20 hours for listening to music.

Content can be added by connecting the BookBox via the supplied USB cable to a PC for drag and drop, which can also be used to charge the device.

An AC adapter and leather-look black carry case are included.

As for the cons, you must press a button to rotate the images between portrait and landscape rather than the view shifting automatically, the screen is not touch sensitive and there are no speakers. But these are functions you would associate with far more expensive gadgets than the China-made BookBox, which is available for under £100.

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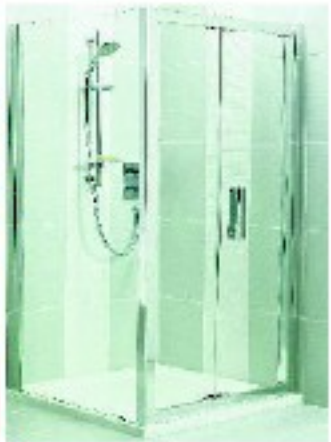

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Courses Starting January

New Course for Designers

Budding designers can find out about the exciting world of costume design as part of a new course being launched this January at City of Wolverhampton College.

The Theatre Costume design course, which starts at Paget Road Campus on January 12, is being taught by talented costume designer Nazanin Quereshi.

Nazanin's impressive CV includes workings as a wardrobe assistant for We Will Rock You, creating costumes for Gwen Stefani for the Brit awards, making couture costumes for the BAFTAs and producing costumes for the Tussaud's Group.

Mike Dixon said: "With Nazanin's wealth of experience we are very fortunate in the college to be able to offer such a fantastic opportunity for both our own students as well as the general public."

The course runs on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

For more information contact College Direct on 01902 836000.

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For further information call College Direct on 01902 836000

Shed those Christmas pounds with the new fitness craze - Zumba!

The Latin-inspired dance aerobics class is coming to the Community Sports Centre at Wellington Road this January, starting on January 12th. Classes run from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and from 7.30pm to 8.30pm and cost just £3.50. For more information ring 01902 831180.

One day media courses

City of Wolverhampton College has launched a series of short, quick-fire media courses aimed at professionals looking to gain the basics and is ideal for those working on their company website.

These one day workshops include Photoshop for Beginners, Digital Photography, Photoshop and Video Production. Courses, which are taught by professionals using industry standard equipment, run throughout the Spring term.

For more information or to book your place contact Mediacove on 01902 317646 or email mediacove@wolvcoll.ac.uk

College kicks off new year with exciting wedding course

City of Wolverhampton College is kicking off the New Year with an exciting opportunity for people to make their own bridal flowers.

The five week Beginners Wedding Flowers Course will teach students how to make a buttonhole and corsages, flowers for the bride and bridesmaid, arrangements for the top table and table centres and other floral novelties.

Floristry tutor Pam Bennett said: "This course is suitable for learners wanting an introduction into wedding work.

"No experience is necessary and during the course students will learn basic wiring techniques and the use of accessories in wedding designs along with flower and fabric compatibility for the season."

The course will be held on a Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm at the Cedars Horticulture Centre, starting on January 11.

Tuition fees are £60 with flowers and materials extra. For more information ring 01902 312064.

IT Courses

@ the Chubb Building in the City centre

Entry Level 3 IT Courses (for total beginners)
Open Morning on Tuesday 11 January 2011 from 9am to 1pm
This course covers basic Word, Internet and Email, with IT Fundamentals.

Level 1 (beginner) **and Level 2** (intermediate) **iTQ Courses**
Open Day on Thursday 13 January 2011 from 9am to 4pm
This course covers a variety of different IT software and learners choose their own modules to make up the qualification.

The above two courses cost £49 with concessions for recipients of income based benefits – who will pay only £10. Attendance is flexible with a requirement of 4 hours per week.

Level 3 (Advanced) **iTQ**
Open Evening Monday 7 February 2011
This course covers a variety of software and is made up of some Level 2 modules and some Level 3 modules. It is an independent study course. The cost for this course is £90 *with concessions for recipients of income based benefits – who will pay only £20.*

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO BOOK A PLACE CALL **01902 427380**

Part-time Courses

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CGC 7880 Preparing to Teach in LLS

Built Environment
Construction Specialist Diploma 1
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C&G 2382-10 - Requirements for IEE (17th)
C&G 2391 Inspection & Testing Certificate
Portable Appliance Testing
C&G 2377 Portable Appliance Testing

Business, IT & Computing
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HR Essentials (Employee Relations) Award
HR Essentials (Performance/Reward)

Creative Arts
Creative Techniques
CF Bubble Award Level 1 - Decorative Blown-up
Theatre Costume Design Level 1 and 2
Hand Embroidery
Creative Web Design
Introduction to Creative Web Design
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Introduction to Digital Image Manipulation
Introduction to Digital Photography
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Other courses include introduction to Final Cut Pro and Adobe Illustrator. Please contact us for details on Mediacove Training 01902 317646 or media.cove@wolvcoll.ac.uk

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Choice

PRIMEVAL
ITV1, 7.30pm

It's been a year since [illegible] death and the disappearance of Danny Connor and Abby as the fantasy drama returns for a new fourth series. The government has lost faith in Lester's abilities to run such a dangerous and expensive operation on his own and placed the Anomaly Research Centre in the hands of a partnership run by him and entrepreneurial scientist Philip Burton played by Alexander Siddig of Star Trek Deep Space Nine fame. With the ARC now run for the benefit of Burton's business empire, Lester finds his new boss meddling in his work. Whilst new team members join, the ARC has brought in new recruits to take their place.

BBC1

9.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.40** Football Focus. **12.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.35** The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. **12.40** Doctor Who. (R) **1.00** Film: Bee Movie (2007) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. **3.00** Film: WALL-E (2008) Premiere. Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt. **5.40** Final Score. **5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **[illegible]** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008)

7.30 The Magicians. New series. Lenny Henry presents a conjuring contest in which three internationally renowned acts pair up with celebrities and perform tricks to prove who is the best magician.
8.30 Casualty. [illegible] faces heartbreak after leaving hospital.
9.00 Come Fly with Me. A [illegible] delays passengers.
5.30 Live at the Apollo. With Lenny Henry, Mike Wilmot and Tommy Tiernan. Last in the series.
9.00 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Presented by Jenni Falconer.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Including West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United. National Lottery Update.
11.50 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games; Weather.

1.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **9.35** CBeebies. **11.15** New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2011. **12.30** Film: The War Bride (2001) Wartime drama, starring Anna Friel. **2.40** Film: The Horse Whisperer (1998) Drama, starring Robert Redford. **5.30** The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. (R) **5.35** The Indian Doctor. (R)

6.00 Live Darts: BBC World Championship. The evening session on the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, where Martin Adams v Tony West is among the first round matches.
7.?? Dad's Army. The platoon mans the local lighthouse. (R)
7.55 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show 1976. The duo present a festive edition of their comedy with guests including Elton John, Des O'Connor, John Thaw, Dennis Waterman, Angela Rippon, Kate O'Mara and the Nolans. (R)
9.00 Eric and Ernie. One-off drama about Morecambe and Wise's early years, from their meeting on the children's variety circuit to their first TV appearances. Victoria Wood and Jim Moir star.
10.30 Eric and Ernie – Behind the Screens. Documentary charting the duo's early years.
11.30 FILM: Rising Damp. (1980) Comedy starring Leonard Rossiter.

1.05 Darts: BBC World Championship. **1.35** Darts Extra.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: The [illegible] Club. **7.25** Toonattik. **7.30** Film: The NeverEnding Story (1984) Fantasy adventure starring Barret Oliver. **9.25** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **9.30** Coronation Street. **12.10** ITV News; Weather. **12.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **2.20** Downton Abbey. (R) **4.30** Downton Abbey. (R) **6.20** ITV News; Weather. **6.35** Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. (2004) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

7.30 Primeval. New series. After a year trapped in the Cretaceous period Connor and Abby return to find ARC has been taken over by a new regime and their jobs are hanging in the balance.
8.30 Take Me Out. A stockbroker, a teacher, a company manager and a project controller try to impress 30 single women, and the previous series' couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents.
9.?? FILM: Forgetting Sarah Marshall. (2008) Premiere. A jilted man takes a trip to Hawaii, only to find his girlfriend and her new boyfriend are staying at the same resort. Romantic comedy with Jason Segel and Kristen Bell.
10.?? ITV News; Weather.
11.00 FILM: Forgetting Sarah Marshall. (2008) Premiere. Concluded.

12.10 Film: American Pie: The Wedding. (2003) ITV News Headlines. **1.55** Film: Blues Brothers 2000. (1998) **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV News.

Channel 4

6.05 [illegible] (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **6.?? ** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** GT Academy. (R) **7.??** Freesports on 4. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.??** T4: Friends. (R) **9.??** T4: Friends. (R) **1?.??** T4: Song of 2010. (R) **12.??** T4: Glee. (R) **1.??** Channel 4 Racing. **4.??** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.??** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.??** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.??** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Channel 4 News.
6.15 [illegible]. The issue of peace between Israelis and Palestinians.
6.?? FILM: Independence Day. (1996) The US president leads the fight against a force of seemingly indestructible aliens intent on conquering Earth. Sci-fi adventure, with Will Smith, Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum.
7.00 Father Ted Night. An introduction to an evening of programmes.
9.05 [illegible]. The inspiration behind comedy Father Ted.
9.?? Father Ted. An episode of the comedy chosen by viewers. (R)
10.?? Small, Far Away – The World of Father Ted. A road trip in celebration of the comedy's 15th anniversary.
11.?? Father Ted. The show's writers introduce their favourite episode. (R)
11.?? FILM: The Heartbreak Kid. (1972) Black comedy with Charles Grodin.

1.?? Comedy Lab. [illegible] (R) **2.15** Dirty Sexy Money. (R) **4.05** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **4.50** Beauty and the Geek. (R)

Channel Five

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Zoo Days. (R) **10.30** Film: High Society (1956) Musical romantic comedy with Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly. **12.25** Titanic. (R) **4.??** Film: The Searchers. (1956) John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne.

6.15 Five News.
6.30 CSI: Miami. Calleigh lapses into a coma as a result of smoke inhalation suffered while investigating a surgeon's death – and with her out of action, Alexx Woods returns to help solve the case. (R)
7.?? CSI: Miami. Defence attorney Derek Powell's fiancee is killed. (R)
8.00 CSI: Miami. Ryan frames a security guard for murder following pressure from Russian mobsters, who have taken his friend Mark [illegible] as a bargaining chip. Starring Jonathan Togo. (R)
9.00 CSI: NY. One of the CSIs is gunned down while escorting media mogul Robert Dunbrook's son to testify against his father in court. Guest starring Molly [illegible] (R)
10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Sara is used as bait for a killer.
11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A triple murder case haunts Catherine. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.??** Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) **4.??** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **4.??** The Family Recipe. (R) **5.00** Hands Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.??** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.??** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
[illegible] Film: [illegible] Fun (2005) [illegible] Film: [illegible] Lyrics (2007) [illegible] Film: The Holiday (2006)

ITV3
[illegible] Film: The Three Musketeers (1973) [illegible] Agatha Christie's Poirot [illegible] Rosemary & Thyme [illegible] Above Suspicion [illegible]

ITV4
[illegible] Film: [illegible] (1967) [illegible] Film: Maverick (1994) [illegible] The Professionals [illegible] Ultimate Force [illegible] Film: [illegible] (1966)

BBC THREE
7.00 Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers [illegible] Film: Mary Poppins (1964) [illegible] Most Annoying People 2010 [illegible] Backchat [illegible] Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 New Year's Day Concert 2011 [illegible] The Pyramid [illegible]

E4
[illegible] Hollyoaks [illegible] Make It or Break It [illegible] Friends [illegible] The Big Bang Theory [illegible] How I Met Your Mother [illegible] Friends [illegible] Film: The Transporter 2 (2005) [illegible] The 100 Greatest Stand Ups 2010

FILM4
[illegible] The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain (1995) [illegible] Runaway Bride (1999) [illegible] when a disreputable journalist seeks a woman renowned for her [illegible] fear of commitment. Romantic comedy starring Julia Roberts, Richard Gere and Joan Cusack. [illegible] **9.00** The Godfather (1972) Francis Ford Coppola's gangster drama, starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino.

Sunday TV

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Choice

ZEN

BBC1, 9pm

Rufus Sewell seems to have been bitten by the TV adaptation bug of late. First he appeared in Channel 4's take on Ken Follett's The Pillars of the Earth, now he's starring in this new offering, which is based on a series of novels by Michael Dibdin. Sewell takes the lead, playing Aurelio Zen, a charismatic Italian detective who, in this first edition, re-investigates a multiple murder. Sometime earlier, [illegible] Cesar Frasca and his guests were shot dead at his lakeside villa. His friend, Renato Favelloni, has spent time in jail after confessing to the crime. Zen remains convinced that Favelloni did the dirty deed until Judge Bertolini is shot dead in his car.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **[illegible]** Match of the Day. (R) **[illegible]** Film: Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas. (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. **11.10** BBC News. **[illegible]** Sport Relief 2010 – The Final Score. (R) **[illegible]** Doctor Who. (R) **[illegible]** EastEnders. **[illegible]** Halcyon River Diaries. (R) **[illegible]** Songs of Praise. **[illegible]** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

[illegible] **Countryfile.** Adam Henson heads for Dover to celebrate the beauty of the British coastline, and introduces a selection of the team's favourite moments from the past 12 months. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

[illegible] **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Blair Castle in Perthshire, where they examine valuables including a chair once used by Albert Einstein and a watch with no hands.

[illegible] **Granville.** Jordan gets behind the wheel of a car, with fast consequences.

[illegible] **Zen.** New series. Roman detective Aurelio Zen investigates a murder in a remote village – but finds the case could spark off a political scandal. Drama, starring Rufus Sewell.

[illegible] **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

[illegible] **[illegible].** The gang [illegible] for Neil's christening. (R)

[illegible] **[illegible]** (2007)

[illegible] Sky at Night. Weatherview. **[illegible]** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **[illegible]** Polar Bear: Spy on the Ice. (R) **[illegible]** Count. **[illegible]** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **[illegible]** CBBC. **[illegible]** Something for the Weekend. **[illegible]** Escape to the Country. (R) **[illegible]** Bargain Hunt: Famous Finds. (R) **[illegible]** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **[illegible]** Flog It! (R) **[illegible]** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Day two at the Lakeside Country Club. Commentary by Tony Green, David Croft and Vassos Alexander.

6.00 **The Hairy Bikers' [illegible] Christmas Show [illegible]** Another chance to see the duo's 2007 festive special, featuring their star-studded performance of There Is Nothing Like a Dame and an appearance by Elton John. (R)

[illegible] **Grand Hotel [illegible]** **[illegible].** Dr Clarke and Hugh Dennis [illegible] been fed to Japanese [illegible]. Wales and pay homage to the park [illegible], before the [illegible] grand opening. Last in the series.

9.00 **Arctic with Bruce Parry.** New series. The adventurer experiences life in the Siberian wilderness.

10.00 **Match of the Day 2.** Chelsea v Aston Villa and Wigan Athletic v Newcastle United.

[illegible] **Never Mind the Buzzcocks.** Robert Webb guest hosts, with Cee Lo Green, Charlie Brooker, Andi Osho and Example. (R)

[illegible] **The Man Who Lost His [illegible].** A profile of TV producer Bill Cotton.

12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. **[illegible]** Darts Extra. **[illegible]** BBC News. **[illegible]** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: The Fluffy Club. **[illegible]** Toonattik. **[illegible]** Film: Curious George. (2006) Children's animated adventure, with the voice of Will Ferrell. **11.00** Film: Beethoven's 5th. (2003) Family comedy starring Daveigh Chase. **[illegible]** You've Been Framed! (R) **[illegible]** ITV News; Weather. **[illegible]** Downton Abbey. (R) **[illegible]** Downton Abbey. (R) **[illegible]** Downton Abbey. (R) **[illegible]** Regional Programmes. **[illegible]** ITV News; Weather. **[illegible]** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) Premiere. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton.

[illegible] **Primeval.** Reunited with an old friend, Connor encounters a deadly creature menacing the docks and finds evidence of a fresh kill. Abby and Matt soon arrive to help catch the beast.

[illegible] **The Cube: Celebrity Special.** Coronation Street's Jennie McAlpine and boxer Ricky Hatton play for charity.

9.00 **Agatha Christie's Marple.** The amateur sleuth investigates when a poisoned cocktail appears to herald a series of attempts on the life of a Hollywood actress. Julia McKenzie stars, with Lindsay Duncan.

[illegible] **ITV News; Weather.**

11.15 **The Comedy Awards [illegible].** Comedians give their verdict on the defining moments of the year. (R)

[illegible] Premiership Rugby Union. ITV News Headlines. **[illegible]** Film: The Shadow. (1994) **[illegible]** ITV Nightscreen. **[illegible]** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

[illegible] Cafe Mark. (R) **[illegible]** The Treacle People. (R) **[illegible]** The Hoobs. (R) **[illegible]** The Hoobs. (R) **[illegible]** Athletics. (R) **[illegible]** T4: Friends. (R) **[illegible]** T4: Friends. (R) **[illegible]** T4: The Album Chart Show. Introduces Jessie J. **[illegible]** T4: Hollyoaks. **[illegible]** T4: Glee. (R) **[illegible]** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **[illegible]** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **[illegible]** Film: T4: Son of the Mask. (2004) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Jamie Kennedy. **[illegible]** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **[illegible]** Deal or No Deal. **[illegible]** Channel 4 News. **[illegible]** 4thought.tv. **[illegible]** Film: Iron Man. (2008) Premiere. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr.

[illegible] **Famous and Fearless.** New series. Eight celebrities compete in extreme sports, including monster truck racing and BMX riding. Chris Evans and Claire Balding present. Continues tomorrow.

10.00 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** The host is joined by actor and comedian Matt Lucas, who discusses his new BBC1 series Come Fly with Me, and pop band McFly.

[illegible] **Lee Evans [illegible].** The comedian performs at Cardiff International Arena in front of more than 4,000 fans, as part of his nationwide tour in 2005. (R)

[illegible] Music on 4: Russian Standard Originals Records. (R) **[illegible]** Music on 4: Little Noise Sessions. (R) **[illegible]** American Football Live. A match from the final round of the regular season. **[illegible]** British Triathlon Grand Prix. (R) **[illegible]** Brothers & Sisters. The [illegible] of Robert and Kitty's wedding [illegible]. (R)

Channel Five

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **[illegible]** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **[illegible]** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **[illegible]** Fireman Sam. (R) **[illegible]** Rupert Bear. (R) **[illegible]** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **[illegible]** Milo Moo. (R) **[illegible]** The WotWots. (R) **[illegible]** Chloe. (R) **[illegible]** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **[illegible]** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **[illegible]** Hana's Helpline. (R) **[illegible]** Little Princess. (R) **[illegible]** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **[illegible]** Franny's Feet. (R) **[illegible]** Chuck. (R) **[illegible]** The Mr Men Show. (R) **[illegible]** George Shrinks. (R) **[illegible]** Shaktoi: iCarly. **[illegible]** True Jackson, VP. **[illegible]** Zoo Days. (R) **[illegible]** Film: Around the World in 80 Days. (1956) Period adventure, starring David Niven. **[illegible]** Film: Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London. (2004) Family comedy adventure sequel, starring Frankie Muniz. **[illegible]** Five News. **[illegible]** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R)

[illegible] **FILM: The Towering Inferno.** (1974) The world's tallest building goes up in flames, leaving people trapped on the 135th floor. Disaster movie, starring Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, Faye Dunaway and William Holden.

9.00 **Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2010.** Countdown of the year's best water cooler stories. (R)

[illegible] Russell and Katy Get Married. (R) **[illegible]** SuperCasino. **[illegible]** Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) **[illegible]** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **[illegible]** The Family Recipe. (R) **[illegible]** Hana's Helpline. (R) **[illegible]** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **[illegible]** Thomas & Friends. (R) **[illegible]** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
[illegible] Coronation Street. **[illegible]** Take Me Out. **[illegible]** Film: Catwoman. (2004) **[illegible]** Ex-Factor. **[illegible]** Film: Love Actually. (2003)

ITV3
[illegible] Film: The Four Musketeers. (1974) **[illegible]** Lewis. **[illegible]** Heartbeat. **[illegible]** The Best of [illegible] **[illegible]** [illegible] **[illegible]** Film: [illegible] (2003)

ITV4
[illegible] Film: The Appaloosa. (1966) **[illegible]** Film: The Great Outdoors. (1988) **[illegible]** The Greasy [illegible] **[illegible]** Premiership Rugby Union. **[illegible]** Film: Dirty Harry. (1971) **[illegible]** Film: [illegible] (2008)

BBC THREE
[illegible] Film: The Incredibles. (2004) **[illegible]** Jack-Jack Attack. **[illegible]** [illegible] **[illegible]** Film: [illegible] (2007) **[illegible]** Russell Howard's Good News. **[illegible]** Family Guy. **[illegible]** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
[illegible] The Best of European Opera. **[illegible]** The Hans Lipp Story. **[illegible]** Outline Women. **[illegible]** Film: Female Agents. (2008) **[illegible]** Wellington Bomber.

E4
[illegible] Film: Sister Act. (1992) **[illegible]** Friends. **[illegible]** Film: The Cave. (2005) **[illegible]** [illegible] **[illegible]** How to Be Famous. **[illegible]** The [illegible] Greatest [illegible] Ups. (2010)

FILM4
[illegible] A Matter of Life and Death. (1946) **[illegible]** The Thomas Crown Affair. (1968) **[illegible]** Turner & Hooch. (1989) A cop investigating a murder has only one witness to help him solve the case – a large dog named Hooch. Family comedy starring Tom Hanks, Mare Winningham and Craig T Nelson. **[illegible]** Sweet [illegible] Doyle. [illegible] Franco and writer [illegible] [illegible] their new film. **[illegible]** The Godfather: Part II. (1974) Crime-drama sequel, starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Wanted Down Under. 9.45 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.45 Saints and Scroungers. 11.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. 12.00 Bargain Hunt. 12.45 BBC News; Weather. 1.00 Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 2.00 Keeping Up Appearances. (R) 2.30 Film: Three Men and a Little Lady (1990) Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck. 4.10 Doctor Who (R) 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.15 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.30 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. (R) 7.00 Jimmy's Food Factory. 7.30 Nigel Slater's New Year Suppers. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Celebrity Mastermind. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.15 Regional News; Weather. 10.25 A Question of Sport. 10.55 The Football League Show; Weatherview. 12.20 Sign Zone: Giles & Sue Live The Good Life. (R) 1.20 Rock & Chips. (R) 2.20 Dig 1940. (R) 2.50 The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion. (R) 3.50 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.30 Open Gardens. (R) 1.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Day three at the Lakeside Country Club. Coverage continues on the interactive service. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Day three at the Lakeside Country Club. 8.00 Stargazing Live. 9.00 The Bear Family and Me. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. 10.30 Film: Smart People. (2008) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid. 12.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.50 Darts Extra. 2.50 BBC News. 3.50 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 Britain Does the Funniest Things. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) 1.00 ITV News; Weather. 1.15 Regional News; Weather. 1.30 Downton Abbey. (R) 2.30 Downton Abbey. (R) 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 You've Been Framed! (R) 6.30 Regional News; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Lakes. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Deadly Intent. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.15 Film: The Matrix Reloaded. (2003) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Keanu Reeves. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.40 Spartacus. 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 Sail Mail. (R) 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Friends. (R) 9.00 Friends. (R) 9.25 Famous and Fearless. (R) 11.30 Glee. (R) 12.30 127 Hours: T4 Movie Special. (R) 1.00 Film: Three Men and a Baby. (1987) Comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg. 3.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 3.30 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 4.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.30 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.05 Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) 8.00 Famous and Fearless. 9.30 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2010. 11.35 4thought.tv. 11.40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 12.45 Premier League Poker. 1.45 The Genius of British Art. (R) 2.40 Headhunters of World War II. (R) 3.35 Film: The North Star. (1943) Second World War drama, starring Anne Baxter. 5.15 The Untold Invasion of Britain. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 KS. 8.50 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 10.50 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 11.45 Film: Our Man in Havana. (1960) 1.50 Five News. 2.00 Film: Ryan's Daughter. (1970) 5.30 Cowboy Builders. (R) 6.25 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) 8.05 Film: Austin Powers: The Spy Who S****d Me. (1999) Comedy sequel, starring Mike Myers. 10.00 Film: Until Death. (2007) Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. 12.10 America's Toughest Prisons. (R) 1.10 SuperCasino. 4.00 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Motorway Cops. 11.45 Film: The Kovak Box. (2006) Sci-fi mystery thriller, starring Timothy Hutton; Weatherview. 1.25 Sign Zone: David Attenborough's First Life. (R) 2.25 Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) 3.25 Dig 1940. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Day four at the Lakeside Country Club. 8.00 Stargazing Live. 9.00 The Bear Family and Me. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.10 Darts Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 A Touch of Frost. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Kids Under Pressure – Too Much Too Young: Tonight. 8.00 The Secret Mediterranean with Trevor McDonald. 9.00 Above Suspicion: Deadly Intent. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: The Matrix Revolutions. (2003) Sci-fi sequel, starring Keanu Reeves. 12.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.55 Spartacus. 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Famous and Fearless. (R) 11.00 Glee. (R) 11.55 4Music Meets Glee. 12.30 Film: The Longest Day. (1962) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Richard Burton. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 4.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Famous and Fearless. 8.35 David Walliams' Awfully Good. 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. 12.10 European Poker Tour. 1.10 Freesports on 4. (R) 1.35 World B-Boy Series. (R) 2.00 Beach Volleyball. (R) 2.55 Abu Dhabi International Triathlon. (R) 3.45 Triathlon ITU World Championship Series. (R) 4.30 Grudge Match. (R) 4.50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 KS. 8.50 Meals in Moments. (R) 9.00 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.55 Five News. 1.00 Film: A Mother's Gift. (1995) Period drama, starring Nancy McKeon. 3.00 Film: Lily Dale. (1996) 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Monkey Life. 6.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; Five News Update. 8.00 Goering's Last Secret Revealed; Five News at 9. 9.00 CSI: NY. Mac uncovers a murder on board a commercial flight from New York to Washington DC and sets up a makeshift crime lab using hastily improvised apparatus to catch the killer. (R) 10.00 CSI: NY. A woman linked to a number of high-profile figures is murdered, but the detectives find their inquiries hindered by the Chief of Police and wonder what he is trying to hide. (R) 10.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 11.55 The CSI. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.00 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. 7.30 Rip Off Britain. (R) 8.00 BBC News; Regional News. 8.10 Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark. (1981) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Match of the Day: National Lottery Update; Weatherview. 12.10 Sign Zone: David Attenborough's First Life. (R) 1.10 Ian Hislop's Age of the Do-Gooders. (R) 2.10 Tim Book Time – The High Street. (R) 3.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 6.35 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Pointless. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Second-round coverage at the Lakeside Country Club. 8.00 Stargazing Live. 9.00 The Bear Family and Me. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.10 Darts Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.10 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 A Touch of Frost. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Snatched Kids – Too Much Too Young: Tonight. 8.00 The Unforgettable Bob Monkhouse. (R) 9.00 Above Suspicion: Deadly Intent. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Frantic. (1988) Kidnap thriller, starring Harrison Ford. 12.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.50 Film: To Kill a Mockingbird. (1962) Drama, starring Gregory Peck. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Famous and Fearless. (R) 11.00 Glee. (R) 11.55 Wedding House. 1.00 Film: The Greatest Show on Earth. (1952) A circus owner hires a trapeze artist who develops a love-hate relationship with the show's star act. Drama, starring Charlton Heston, Cornel Wilde, Betty Hutton and James Stewart. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 4.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Famous and Fearless. 8.35 Britain's Fattest Man. 10.35 Barbara Windsor: A Comedy Roast. 11.40 Peep Show. (R) 12.15 The Morgana Show. (R) 12.45 Music on 4: Russian Standard Originals Presents. (R) 1.00 My Family's Crazy Gap Year. (R) 1.55 The Twins Who Share a Brain. (R) 2.50 The Hospital. (R) 3.45 ER. (R) 5.20 Hill Street Blues. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.20 KS. 8.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 10.15 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 1.10 Five News. 1.15 Film: The Big Heist. (2001) Fact-based crime drama, starring Donald Sutherland and John Heard. 3.05 Film: Mary Higgins Clark's Moonlight Becomes You. (1998) Mystery thriller, starring Donna Mills. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Monkey Life. 6.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Highland Emergency; Five News Update. 8.00 There's a Rhino in My House; Five News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.50 Poker. 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build - Nottingham. 9.00 Come Fly with Me. 9.30 Not Going Out. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 10 Things You Need to Know about Losing Weight. (R) 11.35 Film: Kate & Leopold. (2001) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Jackman and Meg Ryan; Sitting Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.35 Countryfile. (R) 3.30 Tim Book Time – The High Street. (R) 4.30 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Pointless. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The first two quarter-finals at the Lakeside Country Club. 8.00 Edwardian Farm. 9.00 The Sinking of the Laconia. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.10 Darts Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.30 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 A Touch of Frost. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Too Young to Care – Too Much Too Young: Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Martin Clunes: Man to Manta. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Odd One In. (R) 11.20 Send in the Dogs. 12.15 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.10 Too Young to Care – Too Much Too Young: Tonight. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Famous and Fearless. (R) 11.00 Glee. (R) 11.55 Wedding House. 12.55 Film: The Seven Year Itch. (1955) Comedy, starring Marilyn Monroe. 2.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 3.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 4.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Famous and Fearless. 8.35 Derren Brown: Enigma. 11.10 Film: The X Files: I Want to Believe. (2008) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. 1.10 Orchestra United. (R) 3.00 The Untold Battle of Trafalgar. (R) 4.00 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.45 ER. (R) 5.35 The Treacle People. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.20 KS. 8.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 10.15 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 1.10 Five News. 1.15 Film: Dying to Belong. (1997) Psychological thriller, with Hilary Swank and Sarah Chalke. 3.10 Film: Ties That Bind. (2006) Premiere. Thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Monkey Life. 6.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Zoo Days; (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Nature Shock: The Seal Ripper; (R) Five News at 9. 9.00 Film: S.W.A.T. (2003) Action thriller, starring Samuel L Jackson and Colin Farrell. 11.25 The World of Stupid Criminals. 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.45 HouseBusters. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scroungers. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. 7.30 A Question of Sport. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 QI. 9.00 Hustle. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: The Weather Man. (2005) Comedy drama, starring Nicolas Cage; Weatherview. 1.10 Sign Zone: James May's Man Lab. (R) 2.10 Horizon: Is Seeing Believing? (R) 3.10 Dig 1940. (R) 3.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. 12.30 Darts: BDO World Championships. 3.00 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. 7.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The two remaining quarter-finals and the women's final. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. 9.00 The Sinking of the Laconia. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.05 Darts: BDO World Championships. 11.55 Darts Extra. 1.55 BBC News. 3.40 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 A Touch of Frost. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Doc Martin. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us. 10.30 ITV News; Weather. 11.00 Regional News; Weather. 11.05 Take Me Out. (R) 12.20 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.20 Film: All That Heaven Allows. (1955) Romantic drama, starring Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.20 Friends. (R) 8.50 Friends. (R) 9.25 Famous and Fearless. (R) 11.00 Glee. (R) 11.55 Wedding House. 1.00 3 Minute Wonder: Friends. (R) 1.05 Film: Lassie. (2005) Family adventure, starring Peter O'Toole. 2.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 3.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 4.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. Marge gets a job at the school. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thought.tv. 7.30 Love, Virtually. (R) 8.00 Famous and Fearless. 10.00 Rude Rude Tube 2011. 12.05 Robin Williams: Weapons of Self Destruction. (R) 1.55 My Name is Earl. (R) 2.40 Film: The Castle of Cagliostro. (1979) Animated adventure, with the voice of Yasuo Yamada. 4.25 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.10 ER. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 KS. 8.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 9.10 Polar Bear Adventures with Nigel Marven. (R) 11.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.05 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 1.05 Five News. 1.10 Film: Lucy. (2003) Biopic, starring Rachel York. 3.10 Film: Elevator Girl. (2010) Premiere. Romantic drama, with Lacey Chabert. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Monkey Life. 6.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Michaela's Zoo Babies; (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Titanic: The True Story; Five News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. A teenager is found dead in a forest near a small town, and suspicion falls on a local witch when occult items are discovered near the body. (R) 10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 10.55 NCIS. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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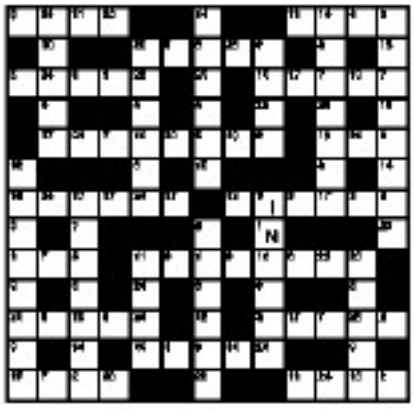
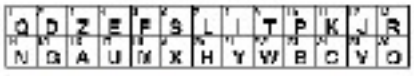
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S ILLUSTRATION



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fill the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Sensibly, but get a grip, it's the plan (5)
8. Lively new pioneers on personality (4)
9. At the same time they were surrounded by an image consultation (11)
11. Arrange a new part on Western (7)
12. Not usual to be a conduit (4)
13. Time to make things palatable (6)
15. Inter the car (6)
17. Such an amalgam that common people will be called to account (11)
18. The music act is hidden towards an owl (7)
20. Angry, cut near the whole of the afternoon meeting (5,4,6)
22. Ex western cookery equipment (8)
23. Gene needs acquaintance such information (5)

Down

2. Sign of honour in a clothbook (4)
3. Also nearly the one on a piece of paper (4)
4. Into a balance (6)
6. Dance on a new's color (7)
8. Looking up one of chicks for bonds somewhere (11)
7. Worried about being unpleasant (9)
10. Strictly appropriate rather on a new can (9,4)
11. Face the rising [illegible] (8)
14. Apparent, but not in a relief's concern (7)
16. Yet they may to be a large part of the monthly rental (8)
19. Buy lecture merely in churches – but not, no hour (6)
21. Refer the newlywed (6)

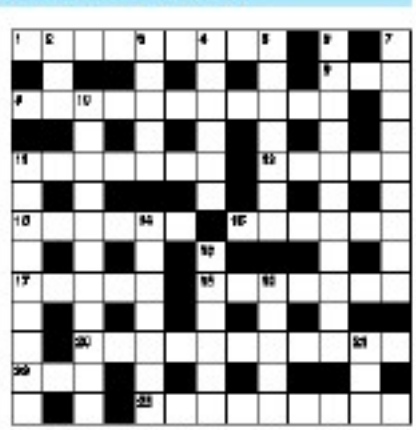
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Right side of a ship (7)
6. Lawn (4)
10. Lively (11)
11. Collar (7)
12. Pressure (4)
13. Summary (8)
15. Course of [illegible] (9)
16. Wrong (6)
18. Indeposition (7)
20. Lowest temperature [illegible] (10)
22. Alien (4)
23. Into [illegible] (9)

Down

2. Sweet (4)
3. Wide bay (6)
4. Dense (8)
5. Headed (7)
6. Relatively (10)
7. Pleasure (5)
10. Heavy (10)
11. Rule [illegible] (3)
14. MEDDLES (7)
16. Rank (7)
19. Up (5)
21. Lubricant (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

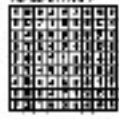
ACROSS: 1 Amazon; 7 Agreed; 8 Tempest; 10 Tractors; 11 Nerve; 12 Elms; 13 Aural; 17 Walks; 18 Pulls; 22 Or off; 23 Hazard; 24 Roller; 25 Repair. DOWN: 1 Aviation; 2 Ceiling; 3 Ceiling; 4 Hours; 5 Hopes; 6 Hence; 9 Contention; 14 Tonnes; 15 Mission; 16 Culinary; 19 Arrive; 20 Words; 21 Mention. [illegible]

Sudoku

Fill in the grid between so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

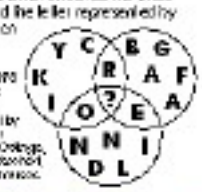
		4	6		7	8		
	1			3			5	6
		8				1		
	3	5			2			7
6			7		1			3
9			6			4	2	
		3						8
5	8			4			7	
		6	1		8	3		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Circlegram

Replace the question marks with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question marks is L. Orange, tennis and diamond are all words in which the letter L appears in succession.

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SL58WDD	FIESTA 1.25 EDGE 3DR, 0 OWN, 11668 MILES	£8,995	£7,995
DE58DJO	FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC S 3DR, BLACK, 13280 MILES	£9,405	£9,295
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MT58EHU	FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3DR, 16" ALLOYS, TINTED, 17000 MILES	£10,995	£8,995
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LK06KTY	FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE 3DR, REAR PDC, BLACK, 31494 MILES	£5,405	£5,295
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KD67BJY	FOCUS 1.6 TDCI STYLE 5DR DIESEL, SEA GREY, 62116 MILES	£6,995	£5,995
WP59KRN	FOCUS 1.6 STYLE 5 DOOR, VISION, 8478 MILES	£9,405	£8,295
KD60UPJ	FOCUS 1.6 TITANIUM 5DR, VISION, 34072 MILES	£9,405	£9,295
BT09WPU	FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR, SEA GREY, 9000 MILES	£9,995	£8,995
FY59VZH	FOCUS 2.5 ST-2 3 DOOR, BLACK, 46200 MILES	£10,405	£9,995
WP60UCL	FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC SPORT PACK 5 DOOR, WHITE, 9287 MILES	£10,995	£10,495
WP60CCN	FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 3-5 DOOR, VISION, 10332 MILES	£11,405	£10,495
WP60LUB	FOCUS 1.6 TITANIUM 5 DOOR, VISION, 6100 MILES	£11,405	£10,495
LW07CGK	FOCUS ST 2.5 DR 2.5 PETROL, RED, 39211 MILES		SOLD
WP60BYU	FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC SPORT PACK 5 DOOR, SILVER, 8054 MILES	£12,405	£11,995
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A WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers supporters group travelled to India as part of a charity project to build houses.

Punjabi Wolves raised £25,000 to fund their housing project in Rehana Kalan village, in the Hoshiarpur district of Punjab.

The purpose of the trip was to provide 20 homes for families who were living under the poverty line. They also provided bedding, blankets, medicine and mosquito nets.

Punjabi Wolves member Andy Sahota said: "We didn't just want to provide them with housing; we also wanted to give them a better way of life."

The group hope the 20 houses, which will all bear a Punjabi Wolves plaque, will be completed in the near future. They also made a donation to the local football academy, YFC Rehana Kalan, which has produced five international footballers and hundreds of national level players.

Spokesperson for Punjabi Wolves Raj Bains said: "We were overwhelmed with the response we had from our fan club members and Wolverhampton Wanderers FC before we left the United Kingdom.

Diverse

"Having spent the best part of two weeks in and around the village of Rehana Kalan I have seen for myself the results of our work.

"The villagers are fully appreciative of our efforts and it's been amazing to see the change in people's lives."

The money was raised by a charity bike ride last year, which started in Wolverhampton and ended in Windsor, Berkshire, a dinner and dance and an auction which was attended by former Wolves players Don Goodman and Steve Bull.

Punjabi Wolves have raised more than £115,000 in the last three years for local charities, and are holding another bike ride next year, this time from Molineux to Wembley.

The members hope to raise £50,000 for NSPCC, the MS Society, Promise Dreams and their project in India.

Punjabi Wolves are the largest group of ethnic supporters of a football club in Europe, and boast a broad and diverse membership base.

In recognition of their growing stature within the area, they were recently formally elected into the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fan Parliament.

Players from Punjabi Wolves, from Wolverhampton, lay the foundations for a housing project in Hoshiarpur district

We love to go a-wandering... Punjabi Wolves players arrive at Rehana Kalan village, in India's Punjab, proudly carrying a club banner, having raised £25,000 from a bike ride and other charity events to build 20 homes for villagers

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sport

FEATURE: Punjabi Wolves hit target on India trip – page 35

Five-star Hennessey first to complete Bet You Score

WOLVES Community Trust is almost £2,000 better off thanks to club sponsors Sportingbet and the football skills of 10 Wolves first team players.

After a recent training session at Molineux former keeper and Wolves Community Trust ambassador Matt Murray rounded up players from the first team squad including, Kevin Doyle, Wayne Hennessey and Stephen Hunt to participate in a charity version of the Premier League club's renowned challenge for fans during the half time interval, Bet You Score.

The game gives Wolves fans the chance to win it big by backing themselves to score a goal from various distances between the penalty spot and the half way line – without the ball touching the ground.

To date, no-one has completed the feat and won the top money, so in a bid to prove it wasn't an impossible task, Sportingbet and Wolves Community Trust laid the gauntlet down to the Wolves first team.

If anyone could score from the half way line, surely a Wolves player could! In doing so, all of the players had the chance to win money, not for themselves but for the local Wolverhampton causes that the Wolves Community Trust supports.

Keeper Hennessey was the star performer, completing the challenge and racking up a fantastic solo effort of £500 by scoring from the half-way line. A total of £975 was raised by the players, which Sportingbet has agreed to double, creating a final donation of £1,950 for the Community Trust.

Sportingbet sponsorship manager Matt Cook said: "Sportingbet is really pleased to be able to support the Community Trust, with this unique challenge.

"Wolves fans have been attempting the Bet You Score challenge at half-time on the Molineux pit ch for a while now with varying degrees of success. "It's great that the professionals have had the chance to show us all how it should be done and raise much needed cash for a great charity."

Murray said: "It was a fabulous gesture from Sportingbet to set the challenge for the players and to boost our funds. The players are all aware of the fantastic work the trust carries out in the local area and were only too keen to have a go at Bet You Score for themselves.

"The money will continue to help support the Trust's various initiatives in Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas".

The cash generated by the players will be used to develop the diverse range of initiatives Wolves Community Trust offers to support the community of Wolverhampton and its surrounding areas.

Kites flying high as he gets pain-free Christmas present

Michael Kightly – feeling positive

MUCH-MISSED winger Michael Kightly has brought festive cheer to Wolves fans – he is pain-free for the first time in a year.

The former England Under-21 ace underwent surgery on his left knee 10 days ago in Sweden following a similar operation on his right joint in a bid to finally cure inflammation in both his patella tendons.

Manager Mick McCarthy revealed last week that Kightly, who last played on November 29, 2009, is "buzzing" at his brightened prospects.

And the player said he will be running again in four weeks' time if he continues to suffer no ill-effects.

"The surgeon was really pleased with how the operation went," said Kightly, who will be 25 next month.

"He had less fluid to clear out on the left knee than on the right so I've got less swelling which is already a positive.

Bubbly

"I'm back on the bike already whereas with the other knee it took me two to three weeks. This time it's been five days.

"So it went well and if it ends up as good as the right knee I'll be buzzing. The week before I went over to have my left knee done I was outside doing ball work and sprinting. For the first time in more than a year I didn't have any pain and that was a really nice feeling.

"As long as I don't rush my rehab, which clearly I'm not going to do, then I'll be fine.

"I've got to carry on having treatment and doing strengthening work and hopefully I'll be running again maybe four weeks from now.

"From there it will be a case of progressively building things up."

Kightly is as bubbly as they come when not consumed by the frustration and discomfort of injury.

"I feel really positive at the moment," said the flying winger, who finished as third top-scorer with eight goals in the Championship-winning season of 2008-09, despite being plagued by hip and foot problems for much of the campaign.

"There have been times when I've felt down with how things were going," he said. "Now I'm feeling really good and looking forward to getting back out there again."

But Kightly, who has made just three league starts since that training match accident against Shrewsbury in March 2009, has had too many disappointments to seriously consider being selected in Mick McCarthy's 25-man squad in January.

"I'm not even thinking about that to be honest," he said. It would be silly of me to start setting targets especially after being out for so long.

"The last thing I want to do is rush back because my knees feel good and then pull a hamstring or a quad or something else.

"I need to make sure the rest of my body is good as well as my knees because having been out for so long, my body is almost de-conditioned to play football.

"Who knows? We might not have 25 players in January and I may end up in there by default. But otherwise it's about getting myself fit and if that does go well maybe get out on loan to try to play some games.

"Then it will be looking towards having a good season here next year."

Influential

News the hugely popular Kightly appears to be finally over his injury nightmare has been greeted with relief within the squad.

Fellow winger Matt Jarvis has excelled on the Premier League stage to the extent where he has become one of Wolves' most influential players this season and been linked with a £4m move to Liverpool and Everton next month. Jarvis is the same age as Kightly and the former Gillingham man believes his fellow wideman can have the same impact on the top flight as he has.

"He's been injured for virtually the whole time we've been in the Premier League," said Jarvis.

"We just hope he can get back playing again and show everyone what a good player he is.

"Of course, I'm sure he'd have carried that on in the Premier League and will be able to when he comes back. It was fantastic when myself and him were playing on opposite wings.

"We were attacking all the time and it must have been great to watch for supporters.

"He scored a few goals and set a load up in the Championship – he's one of those players who can take a game by the scruff of the neck. He gives us another dimension."

Halford looks to be on way out of Wolves

Greg Halford's loan move to Portsmouth could be permanent

GREG Halford appears to have played his last game for Wolves with the £2m utility man set to sign for Portsmouth next month.

Manager Mick McCarthy revealed the club are prepared to sell the former Reading and Sunderland misfit, whose latest loan deal at Pompey expires on January 3.

"Ultimately I think we'd like to think there was a deal to be done for him, but we'll see," said the boss, who welcomed the 26-year-old back training with Wolves last week as he is suspended for the Boxing Day clash with Millwall after accumulating five bookings.

Halford's nine Championship games for Portsmouth represent three quarters of the 12 league starts he has made for Wolves since signing for £2m in July 2009.

But his form at Pompey, where his three goals have helped Steve Cotterill's side to five wins and a draw, is likely to see Wolves attempt to recoup most of their outlay.

"They want him and if they take him, they'll have to take him for the rest of the season and we'd have to accept being a player down," added McCarthy.

"He's doing well for them and I think they'd like to extend the loan.

"You might have thought I'd have brought him back with all our injuries, but I wouldn't have played him at right-back because Ronald Zubar is fit and I wouldn't have put him at right wing because Matt Jarvis is fit.

"I wouldn't have brought him back to put him on the bench because that wouldn't do either of us any favours."

Successful

Halford's likely exit presents chief executive Jez Moxey with some challenging negotiations to get his money back while underlining the difficulties of recruiting as a Premier League club.

Moxey recently successfully got every penny back on £2.5m Jelle Van Damme who returned to Belgium last month.

But Halford would be another recruit from the summer of 2009 not to convince following the exit of £1.2m Andrew Surman, who joined Norwich for £500,000, and £1.8m Stefan Maierhofer, who is on a year's loan at MSV Duisburg.

SPEEDWAY

Wolves hope on return of Lindgren

WOLVES hope to confirm the return of their speedway top gun Fredrik Lindgren next month – and his fellow Swede Peter Karlsson is already on board.

Lindgren, the reigning Elite Riders Champion and the man who has topped the entire league averages for the last two years, will be guest of honour at the open day of club sponsors Parrys International at their Cheslyn Hay base on Sunday, January 9.

The 25-year-old will also meet supporters at a fans' forum at Chillington WMC the following night, when club owner Chris Van Straaten hopes to announce a contract deal.

Faithful

It would be a ninth successive Monmore season for the loyal Lindgren.

"I'm a man who is quite faithful to the colours and I get used to a club," he said.

Van Straaten said there was still "talking to be done" but added: "I asked him the simple question of whether he wanted to be here next season and he wasted no time in saying yes."

Karlsson, meanwhile, at 41 will be embarking on his 14th campaign in black and gold and can barely wait.

"When I get back there it will feel like I was never away," said the Monmore legend.

TIM HAMBLIN

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